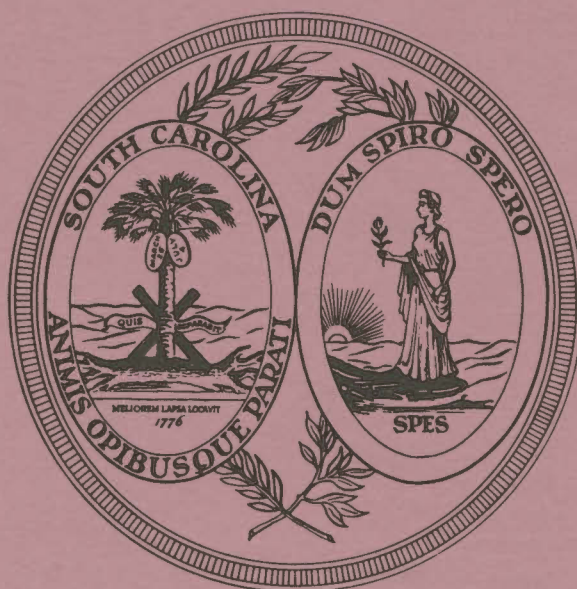


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SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM



ANNUAL REPORT 1989-1990

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STATE DOCUMENTS

State of South Carolina



Children's Foster Care Review Board System

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Executive Director

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.
and Members of the General Assembly

I am pleased to report herein the activities of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System for the fiscal year 1989-90. Foster Care Review Board statistics revealed that the cases of 4586 children in public and private foster care were reviewed in 1989. A total of 8112 reviews were conducted by the local Boards and recommendations for permanent placement for these children were made to the Family Court and to appropriate agencies.

The Agency has encouraged the return of children to their natural parents when appropriate, has promoted and encouraged all other agencies and facilities involved in placing children in foster care to place children with persons suitable and eligible as adoptive parents, has advised foster parents of their rights to petition the Family Court for termination of parental rights and adoption; and has recommended that all efforts be exerted by child caring facilities and agencies to arrange permanent foster care or guardianship where appropriate.

The Agency has reported any deficiencies in efforts to secure permanent homes for children regularly to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive and foster care agencies. The Agency has also compiled and included herein recommendations regarding services to foster children in our State.

The Agency continues to see progress being made in the delivery of services to foster children and to their families. We are committed to continue to work with all other agencies and systems involved with foster children to protect the rights and best interests of these children and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henrietta F. Gaillard".

Henrietta Gaillard
Chairperson, Board of Directors

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HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In the early 1970's in South Carolina many child welfare professionals and citizen groups began advocacy efforts on behalf of children in the foster care system. These efforts resulted from their concern over the plight of the child adrift in the foster care system. The ultimate result of these efforts was the establishment of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System in 1974, one of the first such organizations in the nation.

Six major private organizations between 1970 and 1974 spearheaded the initial efforts to obtain permanent homes for children in foster care. These organizations were the American Civil Liberties Union, the South Carolina Council for Human Rights, the South Carolina League of Women Voters, the Midlands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the South Carolina Youth Workers Association and Helping Hands of Aiken County. Child psychiatrists, child psychologists, social work professors, law professors and various church leaders also participated as private citizens to help give direction to the project.

Research to document the condition of foster care in South Carolina was a primary focus of these organizations. Four studies were done in cooperation with Representative Carolyn Frederick, Vice-Chairperson of the South Carolina General Assembly's Study Committee on Legal and Legislative Matters Pertaining to Children. The results of these four studies showed the following:

1. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the children in the Department of Social Services foster care program would neither return home nor be adopted under the existing system. Services were not being provided by the system to the parents to facilitate return home and no efforts were made to free many children eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute.
2. A survey of fourteen private and three public institutions, formerly known as orphanages, showed that the Department of Social Services placed 43% of the children while private placements accounted for 57% of the children placed. Some 20-50% of these children were eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute; however, none of these institutions stated that adoption was one of their services. In addition, most of these institutions offered no services to families to enable return of the children home.
3. Forty-three percent (43%) of the children in foster care had been in two or more foster placements and eighteen percent (18%) had been in three or more.
4. No method existed to keep track of children in foster care. The courts expressed concern about children being lost in the system. Even when children were freed for adoption, the courts had no way of knowing if the children had been placed adoptively.
5. The cost to taxpayers for keeping children in foster care was growing steadily with no resolution in sight.
6. Children were suffering irreparable psychological damage as victims of foster care drift.

The findings from these studies clearly indicated the need for a system to monitor the cases of children in foster care to achieve appropriate permanent placements for these children.

Thus, a statewide foster care review board system was legislated by the 1974 General Assembly. In March of 1975 Governor James Edwards, by Executive Order, established the Office of Child Advocacy as a division of the Office of the Governor. This Executive Order charged that the Office of Child Advocacy establish and coordinate the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and act as ombudsman on behalf of the abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children of the State. The initial funding for the Review Board System as part of the Office of Child Advocacy was shared by the State and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation.

In 1977 the Children's Foster Care Review Board System was fully funded by the General Assembly as a separate State Agency. The Office of Child Advocacy existed as a program of the Review Board System until 1980, at which time it was returned to the Governor's Office. While a part of the Review Board System, the Office of Child Advocacy conducted an ombudsman program for children in general and a training program in the prevention and identification of child abuse and neglect for hospitals and other organizations upon request.

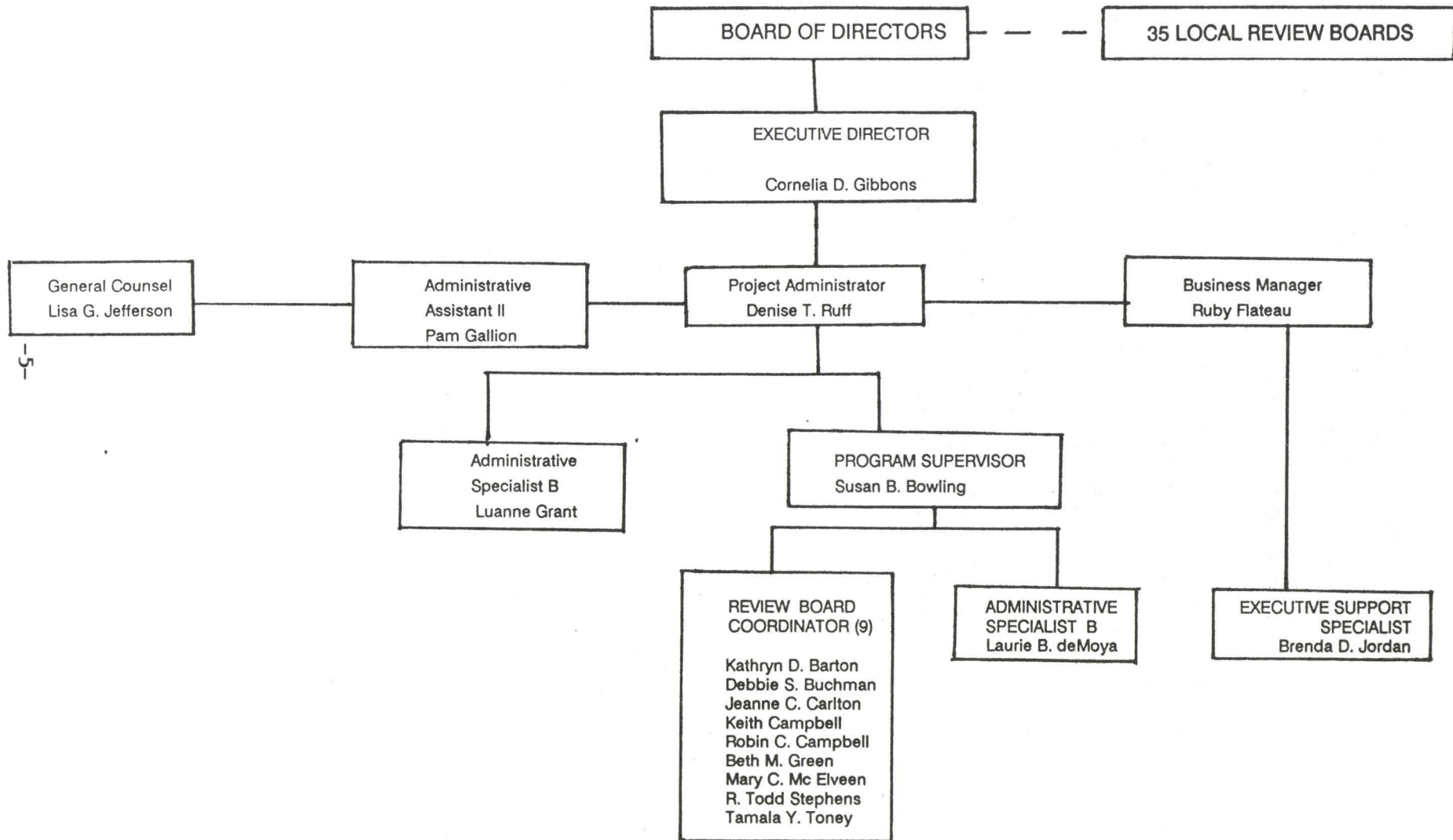
In 1985 the Review Board System was placed under proviso legislation in order to restructure and reorganize the Agency. Permanent legislation and regulations passed by the General Assembly in 1986 restored the Agency to permanent status.

The Children's Foster Care Review Board System is currently comprised of a staff of eighteen serving thirty-five Review Boards across the State. The Review Board System reviews the cases of approximately 4,500 children in public and private facilities and institutions twice annually, statistically evaluates the state of foster care in South Carolina and makes recommendations to the General Assembly and child caring facilities as outlined by South Carolina law.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE AGENCY

Sections 20-7-2376 through 2397 of the South Carolina Code of Laws create the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and establish the Agency to administer case review in accordance with the provisions of Sections 20-7-2376 through 20-7-2397 as follows:

I. Board of Directors for Review of Foster Care of Children

The Board of Directors consists of seven members, all of whom must be past or present members of a local Review Board. There must be one member from each congressional district and one member from the State at large, all appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members of the Board of Directors serve four year terms and until their successors are appointed and qualify. A chairperson is elected from the membership of the Board of Directors for a two year term.

The Board of Directors is responsible for:

- a. the promulgation of regulations, pursuant to the provisions of South Carolina Code of Laws Section 20-7-2376 et seq., relating to the functions, policies, and procedures of the Review Board System;
- b. the promulgation of regulations to provide for review of necessary reports and other information required from state, county and private agencies and institutions, and to report to the Family Court on the status of court ordered treatment plans;
- c. the report of recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to foster care policies, procedures, and any deficiencies of public and private agencies and institutions which arrange for foster care for children;
- d. the annual report to the General Assembly which includes the recommendations and the activities of the Review Board System;
- e. the review and coordination of the activities of the local Review Boards;
- f. the creation or dissolution of local Review Boards as necessary to maintain appropriate caseloads for each Board; and
- g. the employment of the Agency Director.

II. Local Review Boards

There are thirty-five local Review Boards, each composed of five members, with at least one local Board in each of the sixteen judicial circuits throughout the state. Board members are appointed by the Governor upon recommendation by their respective legislative delegation. Their duties are as follows:

1. To review every six months but no less frequently than once every six months the cases of children who have resided in public foster care for a period of more than four consecutive months and to review every six

months the cases of children who have resided in private foster care for a period of more than six consecutive months to determine what efforts have been made by the supervising agency or child caring facility to acquire a permanent home for the child. In private foster care cases, Review Boards will recommend continued placement in the child caring facility unless the parents are able to resume care, in at least those instances when:

- a. children are privately placed in privately owned facilities or group homes; and
 - b. a notarized affidavit of summary review is executed by the child caring facility and is valid on its face; and
 - c. the affidavit of summary review is submitted to the Board every six months. It must be accepted by the Board if it attests to the statutorily mandated conditions and is valid on its face.
2. Except as provided in subsection (1), to encourage the return of children to their natural parents, or, upon determination during a case review of the local Review Board that this return is not in the best interest of the child, to recommend to the appropriate agency that action be taken for a maximum effort to place the child for adoption.
 3. To promote and encourage all agencies and facilities involved in placing children in foster care to place children with persons suitable and eligible as adoptive parents.
 4. To advise foster parents of their right to petition the Family Court for termination of parental rights and for adoption and to encourage these foster parents to initiate these proceedings in an appropriate case when it has been determined by the local Review Board that return to the natural parent is not in the best interest of the child.
 5. To recommend that a child caring facility or agency exert all possible efforts to make arrangements for permanent foster care or guardianship for children for whom return to natural parents or adoption is not feasible or possible as determined during a case review by the local Review Board.
 6. To report to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive or foster care agencies deficiencies in these agencies' efforts to secure permanent homes for children. These deficiencies are identified in the local Boards' review of these cases as provided for in subsection (1) of this section.

Any case findings or recommendations of a local Review Board are advisory.

Any person or agency aggrieved by an action or recommendation of a local Review Board may seek relief by petition to the Family Court of that county which shall issue a rule to show cause why the action or recommendation of the local Review Board should not be set aside or modified. If a child caring facility or agency is not in agreement with the local Review Board recommendation relating to permanent placement of a child in its care, the child caring facility or agency shall notify the chairman of the local Review Board within twenty-one days after receipt of the recommendation.

III. Administration

The Administrative Unit of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System consists of the Executive Director, General Counsel, Project Administrator, Business Manager, Review Board Program Supervisor and Administrative Assistant III.

The duties of this unit are as follows:

- a. to request and to administer funds necessary for the operation of the Review Board System;
- b. to hire and to supervise Review Board System employees;
- c. to recommend new policies and procedures for consideration by the Board of Directors;
- d. to supervise the day-to-day operation of the Review Board System and to ensure that current policies and procedures are implemented;
- e. to provide training for Review Board members and staff; and
- f. to conduct research and to maintain statistical data designed to improve the services to abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children in South Carolina.

The nine Review Board Coordinators serve as staff to the thirty-five local Review Boards. The coordinators provide a full range of administrative support services to the Boards. Each coordinator is assigned a caseload of four or five local Review Boards and is responsible for the following:

1. to plan and to facilitate all Review Board meetings with the local Review Board members and the involved agency or institutional staff;
2. to formalize and to distribute local Review Board recommendations;
3. to serve as a liaison to the local Review Boards to implement program objectives and procedural changes as necessary to ensure compliance with agency objectives and state and federal law;
4. to direct cases appropriate for legal action to the General Counsel from the local Review Boards and to participate in court hearings as necessary;
5. to participate in professional meetings to promote and improve services to children and families;
6. to maintain central files on cases reviewed by local Review Boards; and
7. to initiate appropriate follow-up on cases as necessary to facilitate permanent placement for foster children.

Three Administrative Specialists handle all typing and clerical duties for the Review Board Administrative Staff and Review Board Coordinators.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At Large

Christine O. Jackson

Charleston

1st Congressional District

Henrietta Gaillard

Charleston

2nd Congressional District

Cecelia Aversa

West Columbia

3rd Congressional District

Lucy Wilkerson

Westminster

4th Congressional District

Carolyn Lee

Spartanburg

5th Congressional District

Mrs. Judy Hamrick

Gaffney

6th Congressional District

JoAnn Waldrop

Conway

LOCAL REVIEW BOARD CHAIRPERSONS

Review Board 1A	Emilie Sanders.....Orangeburg
Review Board 1B	Linda WrightSummerville
Review Board 2A	Chalma Lindler.....Aiken
Review Board 2B	Carol Watson.....Aiken
Review Board 3A	Jerry Reeves.....Kingstree
Review Board 3B	Ruth ShufordBishopville
Review Board 4A	Willa JohnsonWallace
Review Board 4B	Perry SimonDarlington
Review Board 5A	Louisa Brown.....Chapin
Review Board 5B	Esther Kelly.....Columbia
Review Board 5C	Meribeth Walton-MooreColumbia
Review Board 5D	Jean Bergeron.....Columbia
Review Board 6A	Herman YoungBlair
Review Board 7A	Pat CurrySpartanburg
Review Board 7B	J. Arthur Bridges, Jr.....Gaffney
Review Board 8A	Pat HartleyClinton
Review Board 8B	Bettie Horne.....Greenwood
Review Board 9A	Jania Sommers.....Charleston
Review Board 9B	Winnie WilsonMoncks Corner
Review Board 9C	Carol McCants.....Charleston
Review Board 10A	Carolyn DavisWalhalla
Review Board 10B	Linda Williams.....Easley
Review Board 11A	Patricia Calvert.....Columbia
Review Board 11B	Almastine Butler.....Saluda
Review Board 12A	Margaret Charles.....Florence
Review Board 13A	Joyce MassingillEasley
Review Board 13B	Janice C. TurnerTravelers Rest
Review Board 13C	Virginia DavisGreenville
Review Board 14A	Grace BrodieAllendale
Review Board 14B	Emma JonesPineland
Review Board 15A	Jim FranklinAndrews
Review Board 15B	M. Lou MichaelConway
Review Board 16A	Martha CowanRock Hill

*Review Boards 5E and 12B were created in March, 1990. Appointments have not been completed for these Boards.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD STAFF

Cornelia D. Gibbons, ACSW..... Executive Director
Kathryn D. Barton..... Review Board Coordinator
Susan B. BowlingReview Board Program Supervisor
Deborah S. Buchman..... Review Board Coordinator
Keith Campbell..... Review Board Coordinator
Robin C. Campbell Review Board Coordinator
Jeanne C. Carlton Review Board Coordinator
Laurie A. deMoyaAdministrative Specialist B
Ruby G. FlateauBusiness Manager
Pam Gallion.....Administrative Assistant II
E. Lu Anne Grant.....Administrative Specialist B
Beth M. Green..... Review Board Coordinator
Lisa G. JeffersonGeneral Counsel
Brenda D. Jordan..... Executive Support Specialist
Mary C. McElveen..... Review Board Coordinator
Denise T. Ruff..... Project Administrator
R. Todd Stephens Review Board Coordinator
Tamala Y. Toney Review Board Coordinator

COMPLIANCE WITH ACT 189, SECTION 129.50

Act 189, Section 129.50 requires that each agency of State Government include in its annual report a list of agency programs in order of priority, and efficiency and effectiveness measures regarding the performance of each agency program. The following information is provided by the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board to comply with this Act.

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System has only one program as follows:

- to review every six months, but no less frequently than once every six months, the cases of all children who have resided in public foster care for more than four consecutive months and to review every six months the cases of all children who have resided in private foster for a period of more than six consecutive months to determine what efforts have been made by the supervising agency or child caring facility to acquire a permanent home for the child;
- to report to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive or foster care agencies any deficiencies in those efforts to secure permanent homes for children discovered in the local Board's review of these cases;
- to report to the court on the status of court ordered treatment plans; and
- to make recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to foster care policies, procedures, and deficiencies of public and private foster care agencies.

The Review Board meets these program requirements through the activities of thirty-five (35) local Review Boards comprised of 175 Review Board members who function under the leadership of the State Board of Directors.

The Foster Care Review Board has evaluated the efficiency and effectiveness of its program using measures which meet the following criteria established by the Budget and Control Board: relevance, validity, significance, uniqueness, clarity, timeliness, reliability, quantification, practicality, completeness, and control.

Comparison of Measures

I.	*Number of Children Reviewed		*Number of Reviews Conducted	
	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
	4500	4586	7835	8112

**The number of children reviewed and number of reviews conducted increased; however, reviews were held timely with no staff increase.*

II. *Number of Review Board Meetings Conducted

1988 1989

327 353

**The number of Review Board meetings increased with no staff increase. These numbers are based on 33 local Review Boards. Two new Boards were created in 1990.*

III. Number and Type of Recommendations Issued on Children Reviewed

1989

Please see Table M , page 53 of this report

1988

Please see Table L, page 26 of the 1988 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board

IV. Area of Concern Statistical Data

1989

Please see Table I & II, page 28 - 32

1988

Please see Table U, page 38 of the 1988 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board

This data was reported to the Department of Social Services and to other agencies as relevant after each Review Board meeting, in four quarterly summaries, and as the final annual data contained in this report. Comparison of 1988 to 1989 shows a decrease in the number of Areas of Concern, and a lower mean percentile for total Areas of concern, thereby reflecting improvement in service delivery to foster children.

<u>1988</u>		<u>1989</u>	
Mean percentile	45.25	Mean percentile	40.9
Standard deviation of scores for DSS counties	16.1	Standard deviation of scores for DSS counties	16.1

V. Demographic Evaluative Data on the Foster Care Population and the Foster Care Review Board Process

1989

Please see Section X, page 41 of this report

1988

Please see Section VIII, page 14 of the 1988 Annual Report of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board

The demographic data in the report indicates that the average length of stay in foster care has decreased from 3.1 years in 1988 to 3.0 years in 1989. Also of note in this data is the increase in the number of parties attending reviews from 6186 in 1988 to 7695 in 1989. This increased attendance reflects the effectiveness of the review process.

VI. Annual Recommendations to the General Assembly

1989

The 1989-90 Recommendations, found on page 15-19 of this report, are based on the analysis of the data in Section IX, page 20, and on survey data received from the Department of Social Services. These recommendations meet the program requirement that the Foster Care Review Board annually make recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to foster care policies, procedures, and deficiencies of public and private foster care agencies.

1988

Please see pages 44-47 of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System Annual Report for 1988/89.

1989-90 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The education of our children has been embraced by all of South Carolina's leaders as the number one priority for public funding. We all agree that children, our most valuable and most vulnerable resource, must receive a quality education to become productive members of society capable of leading South Carolina into the 21st century. Unfortunately, this laudable goal of quality education may never be achieved, no matter how much money we spend, until all of South Carolina's leaders also recognize and embrace the importance of providing adequate health and human services to our children.

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System, through the reviews of all children who are in foster care for four months or longer, recognizes the serious deficiencies which exist in the delivery of health and human services to our most vulnerable, and potentially most dysfunctional, children. Throughout the health and human service systems, resources are inadequate and staff are overwhelmed with impossible mandates. The result is hundreds of children who spend long years in foster care, who daily grow more dysfunctional, and who, in many cases, "grow" into permanent wards of the state as severely emotionally disturbed children and adults or as residents of our juvenile and adult criminal justice systems.

This travesty to our children, this destruction of our most valuable resource must stop! The Foster Care Review Board challenges you--our legislators, and you--our business and community leaders, to support the adequate delivery of health and human services as the essential prerequisite to education. **A hungry, abused, and/or emotionally disturbed child cannot learn no matter how good the teacher nor how fine the text book!** Join us in support of the Recommendations presented in this report so that together we can improve the delivery of health and human services to our foster children and afford these children the opportunity to learn within the educational system.

Role of the Foster Care Review Board

The Foster Care Review Board's role is to look at all aspects of child welfare services to foster children and their families through the case review process and, thereby, to make recommendations with regard to foster care policies, procedures and deficiencies. The Foster Care Review Board Recommendations, as presented in this report, are the result of the analysis of data obtained through the individual case reviews of 4586 foster children in 1989 and the responses to a survey questionnaire completed by Department of Social Services county directors and State Office staff. Analysis of data from both sources clearly identifies certain factors which hinder the achievement of timely permanent placements for our foster children.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

I. Staffing needs of the child welfare system in South Carolina must be given priority status by the General Assembly.

- The number of county based human services staff must be increased to meet staffing standards identified by the Health and Human Services Finance Commission and the Department of Social Services Omni Study recommendations. The Department of Social Services is staffed at seventy-eight percent (78%) of need for mandated services and seventy-three percent (73%) of need for all other services. These staffing patterns result in extremely high caseloads statewide. The Review Board survey responses indicated county directors see these high caseloads as one of the primary causes for Areas of Concern. Caseloads being too high to manage was ranked as one of the top three responses to ninety-one percent (91%) of the survey questions relating to problems in delivery of services.
- Training requirements for caseworkers and supervisors must be strengthened and improved. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of the responses to the Review Board survey indicated these respondents felt that policy and procedure violations, as well as problems surrounding case plans for each child, could both be attributed to inadequate training.
- Salaries of human services staff must be upgraded to levels appropriate for professional social workers in order to recruit and retain well-qualified and experienced staff. Caseworker turnover was cited by county directors and State Office personnel in forty-one percent (41%) of the responses to questions related to agency policy and procedure violations.

II. The delivery of legal services to foster children in South Carolina must be improved.

- Merit hearings, judicial reviews and other judicial proceedings mandated by federal and state law must be conducted within the time frames specified by statutes. Review Board statistics indicate that the cases of 1110 children reviewed during 1989 did not receive timely merit and/or judicial reviews. The Department of Social Services county directors surveyed rated caseloads being too large to manage (56%) and inadequate court time available to hear cases (42%) as their perspective of the leading reasons these judicial proceedings were not completed in a timely manner.
- Adequate legal assistance must be provided to the Department of Social Services' county based human services staff to facilitate permanency planning. "Cases of children in the child welfare system exist in a legal context as well as a social service context. Without legal expertise, casework efforts can fail,"¹ and, thereby, lengthen unnecessarily the time a child spends without a permanent placement. Twenty-three percent (23%) of the county directors surveyed indicated that they felt their county had inadequate legal assistance to prepare for court hearings. County

¹ Linda Katz, "Effective Permanency Planning for Children in Foster Care," Social Work 35 (May 1990): 221.

directors also expressed that they felt they had no control over their county's involvement with the judicial process.

- Coordination and communication between the Department of Social Services and the county solicitor's offices must be improved to facilitate timely and effective legal action for children in South Carolina. County directors surveyed indicated that communication problems with the solicitor's office in their counties contributed to problems with timely court hearings (50%) and court orders not being received by the county (36%). Seventy-three percent (73%) of those responding to the survey indicated that court orders were not being issued by the Family Court within 30 days of the hearing.

III. Funding must be provided to the Department of Social Services for a service delivery continuum to include preventive services in order to reduce the number of children who enter foster care and to comply with the reasonable efforts provision of Public Law 96-272.

- The number of children entering the foster care system in South Carolina grows steadily every year. Neglect continues to be the most common reason for placement each year. Foster Care Review Board statistics for 1989 show that forty-three percent (43%) of the children reviewed entered foster care because of neglect and that forty-two percent (42%) of these children were ultimately returned home. This data raises the concern that many of these children entered foster care unnecessarily. The provision of effective family-based preventive and economic services has been proven to reduce the number of foster care placements.
- Court orders as required by PL 96-272 must contain findings which determine that reasonable efforts have been made to prevent foster care placement.

IV. Funding must be provided to the Department of Social Services for a service delivery continuum to include supportive services to reunite families as soon as possible and to reduce the recidivism rate of children who are returned home after a stay in foster care.

- The recidivism rate indicates that eighteen percent (18%) of the 4586 children reviewed in 1989 had re-entered foster care one to eight times.
- The recidivism rate for children in the foster care system indicates that supportive services to families when children are returned home are inadequate. Supportive services are necessary to prevent re-entry into foster care and to maintain children in their own homes.
- The average length of time a child reviewed by the Review Board spends in foster care in South Carolina is 3.09 years. Home-based supportive services could reduce the length of time spent in foster care for many children.

V. Adequate community based treatment services for children and families must be developed statewide.

- Service delivery resources are currently inadequate or unavailable in many communities in South Carolina, causing delays in service delivery which unnecessarily lengthen the time a child spends in foster care. Eighty-two percent (82%) of the county directors responding to the Review Board survey indicated that service delivery resources in their communities were unavailable or inadequate.
- The Department of Social Services cannot provide many of the services to children and families as ordered by the Family Court because these services are unavailable in the local communities. This can result in the Department of Social Services being in non-compliance with court orders and can lengthen the time a child spends in foster care. Six percent (6%) of recommendations issued by the Review Board in 1989 cite violation of a court order as an area of concern. Twenty-three percent (23%) of the responses to the Review Board survey indicate that agencies are financially unable to comply with court orders due to a lack of resources.
- Mental Health services must be made available for children and families in every county in South Carolina. The unavailability of local mental health services often delays the implementation of a child's permanent plan. Fifteen percent (15%) of the recommendations issued by the Review Board in 1989 cited delays or no progress in the completion of a child's permanent plan. These delays can often be attributed to a lack of resources in the local community that impedes the agency's ability to move forward on a child's case.

VI. South Carolina must develop policies and procedures which facilitate a cooperative, simultaneous working relationship between the permanency planning and adoption programs of the Department of Social Services to minimize the sequential service delivery process which often causes delays in the achievement of a child's permanent plan.

- Outcome measures to determine the effectiveness of the current case management transfer procedures between permanency planning and adoption must be developed. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the county directors and State Adoption program personnel responding to the Review Board survey expressed concern that there was inadequate coordination and communication between permanency planning staff and adoption staff.
- The point-in-time at which case management and responsibility transfers from permanency planning programs to adoption programs should be re-evaluated.

- The Department of Social Services should reevaluate its policy practice requiring that an adoptive placement be identified before termination of parental rights is initiated. Department of Social Services procedures require that an adoptive home be identified for special needs children prior to initiating legal action for termination of parental rights; however, the Foster Care Review Board is concerned that this practice is applied to many children who would not be defined as "special needs" by either the adoption statute or by agency guidelines.
- The Adoption program should establish procedures regarding time frames for the acceptance of adoption referrals from permanency planning staff. Forty-three percent (43%) of those responding to the Review Board survey cited concerns that there were no time frames in current policy for the adoption program to accept case referrals from permanency planning staff.
- Review Board recommendations for termination of parental rights and adoption increased by thirty-two percent (32%) in 1989 while recommendations for adoptive placement for children who were free for adoption decreased by 27%. The increasing number of recommendations for termination of parental rights and adoption indicates a growing population of children for whom local Review Boards felt this was the best permanent plan based on the facts presented. More emphasis must be placed on child specific adoptive planning and adoptive recruitment in order to locate permanent placements for these children in a more timely manner.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF DATA REGARDING AREAS OF CONCERN

January 1, 1989 - December 31, 1989

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System is mandated by State law to report annually to the General Assembly any deficiencies identified during the course of review in the supervising agency's efforts to acquire a permanent home for each child. The written advisory recommendations issued by local Review Boards on each case indicate any Areas of Concern, *i.e.* deficiencies, identified on that case.

A major focus of the Foster Care Review Board System is to help systems work for children; therefore, the identification and analysis of significant barriers or concerns which may prevent timely, permanent placement is essential. Areas of Concern are defined as violations of federal law, state law or public agency policy which have been determined by the Foster Care Review Board to be significant barriers in the provision of permanency planning services to children in foster care. The definitions for each Area of Concern are presented on Page 24 of this report.

For purposes of data analysis, the sixteen Areas of Concern tracked by the Foster Care Review Board are divided into three categories:

- 1) violations of Federal statutory requirements related to Section 427 of Public Law 96-272¹ and S.C. Code Section 20-7-766;
- 2) violations of state law in regard to untimely merit hearings, non-compliance with court orders and violations of regulations related to foster care review that have been enacted by the General Assembly; and
- 3) violations of programmatic policies and procedures established by public agencies related to the delivery of child welfare services.

Area of Concern data for 1989 is presented in two tables, Table I for January - June, 1989 and Table II for July - December, 1989. Table I on page 28 delineates Area of Concern data by the party holding legal custody of the child. Thus, in Table I, children whose case management was the responsibility of the Department of Social Services State Regional Adoption Program are included in the county totals based on the child's county of origin. In June 1989 the Department of Social Services finalized guidelines to determine the point in time for transfer of case management responsibilities from the county departments of social services to the State Regional Adoption Program. Table II on page 36 delineates Area of Concern data by the division of the Department of Social Services which holds case management responsibility and thus removes from the county totals those cases for whom the Regional Adoption Programs had case management.

Please note that although the Department of Social Services holds custody and service delivery responsibility for the 3991 children in public foster care reviewed by the Boards in 1989, the Department of Social Services is not responsible for all of the barriers or deficiencies mentioned in this report. Service delivery to foster children involves the complex interaction of many systems, any one of which may be a contributing factor which prolongs a child's stay in foster care.

1 Federal Section 427 requirements do not apply to children in private foster care placements because the Federal law applies only to children in public foster care.

Also of note is the impact of Hurricane Hugo on service delivery in certain counties declared as disaster areas. The Area of Concern rate may be higher for these counties; however, the Foster Care Review Board did make every effort to allow for the effects of Hugo by not citing Areas of Concern which existed as a result of the storm.

Data regarding statewide comparative statistics on percentage of cases with Areas of Concern are described on page 26.

AREAS OF CONCERN

CATEGORY I

- Child's entry into foster care not reported timely ²
- No timely judicial review ³
- No written case plan for the child ⁴
- Case plan specified for child not complete ⁵
- No time frame for completion of child's permanent plan ⁶

Areas of Concern identified in the first category relate to the procedural safeguards for children in foster care which are outlined by Federal law and required by S.C. Code Section 20-7-766. Section 427 of PL 96-272 contains the core of the 1980 foster care reforms passed by the federal government. This section provides that for each fiscal year after 1980, a state may receive federal incentive funds only if it has met specified conditions of the public law. The Areas of Concern cited by the Foster Care Review Board in this category are violations of the established procedures which the federal government monitors during the routine audits of the Department of Social Services. Failure to meet federal compliance standards, as identified during the routine 427 audits, could result in the loss of millions of dollars in federal funds to the State of South Carolina. The Foster Care Review Board cooperated with the Department of Social Services during the 1989 Federal Audit by providing access to Foster Care Review Board case files for necessary documentation not found in the Department's files. The Department of Social Services passed the 1989 Federal Audit.

CATEGORY II

- No timely merit hearing held on child's case ⁷
- Non-compliance with court orders
- No court orders presented at review ⁸
- Interested parties not invited to attend reviews ⁹
- No notice of non-concurrence with Review Board recommendation submitted ¹⁰
- No psychologicals presented at review ¹¹

² SC FCRB Reg. 24-17(A)

³ SC Code Section 20-7-766; PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(c); Failure to conduct timely judicial reviews can be documented as a violation of state law as well as a violation of federal requirements. Statistical data tracked in this category includes both state and federal violations in this area.

⁴ PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(1); PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(A)

⁵ PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(1); PL 96-272 Section 475 (5)(A) & (B)

⁶ PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(B)

⁷ SC Code Section 20-7-610; SC Code Section 20-7-736

⁸ FCRB Reg. 24-15(P); SC Family Court Rule 26(C)

⁹ FCRB Reg. 24-9

¹⁰ FCRB Reg. 24-35 also S. C. Code Section 20-7-2391

¹¹ FCRB Reg. 24-15(Q)(R)

The second category addresses the following violations of state law in regard to untimely merit hearings, non-compliance with court orders and violations of regulations related to foster care review that have been enacted by the General Assembly:

- 1) South Carolina Code Section 20-7-2379 requires that the Foster Care Review Board report to the Family Court on the status of court ordered treatment plans;
- 2) South Carolina Code Section 20-7-736 requires that a hearing on the merits of a child's removal be held within 40 days;
- 3) the issuance of a Recommendation by the Foster Care Review Board is predicated upon the receipt of appropriate information from the presenting agency; therefore, specific information to be provided for each review by the presenting agency is outlined in regulations promulgated pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 20-7-2379.

CATEGORY III

- No timely adoption consummation
- Failure to implement the permanent plan for the child
- Agency policy or procedure violation
- No progress on the permanent plan within the past six months
- Other

The third category focuses on the quality of social work practice in South Carolina. Areas of Concern in this area deal with violations of public agency policy regarding service delivery to foster children and their families and/or with the timely implementation of such procedures. These programmatic Areas of Concern clearly reflect inadequacies in the funding and/or delivery of services to foster children. Although there are no federal or state sanctions for violations in this area, the long term impact on children and families can be extremely detrimental.

SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM

STATEWIDE AREAS OF CONCERN

January 1, 1989 - December 31, 1989

NUMBER OF REVIEWS FOR TIME PERIOD: 8112

% TOTAL REVIEWS WITH AREAS OF CONCERN: 37.4

<u>AREA OF CONCERN</u>	<u>NUMBER OF AREAS OF CONCERN</u>	<u>% OF STATE TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN</u>
<u>CATEGORY I</u>		
ENTRY NOT REPORTED TIMELY	145	3.1
NO TIMELY JUDICIAL REVIEW	898	19.0
NO CASE PLAN	370	7.8
INCOMPLETE CASE PLAN	229	4.8
NO TIME FRAME FOR PERM. PLAN	<u>204</u>	<u>4.3</u>
Subtotal	(1846)	(39.0)
<u>CATEGORY II</u>		
NO TIMELY MERIT HEARING	213	4.5
NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER	261	5.5
NO COURT ORDER AT REVIEW	295	6.2
PARTIES NOT INVITED TO ATTEND	292	6.2
NO NON-CONCURRENCE SUBMITTED	58	1.2
NO PSYCHOLOGICALS AT REVIEW	<u>34</u>	<u>0.7</u>
Subtotal	(1153)	(24.3)
<u>CATEGORY III</u>		
NO TIMELY ADOPTION CONSUMMATION	100	2.1
FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT PERM. PLAN	410	8.7
AGENCY POLICY/PROC. VIOLATION	790	16.8
NO PROGRESS ON PERM. PLAN	307	6.5
OTHER	124	2.6
Subtotal	(1730)	(36.7)
<hr/>		
TOTALS:	4729	100.0

SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM

1989 AREA OF CONCERN DEFINITIONS

ENTRY NOT REPORTED TIMELY

Child's entry into foster care was not reported in time to schedule a timely review as per statute.

NO TIMELY JUDICIAL REVIEW

Judicial review has not been held within the time frames stipulated by state or federal requirements or has not been held at all.

NO CASE PLAN

A case plan was not presented to the Review Board at the time of the review, or the time frames on the most recent case plan document have expired. (If a case plan is presented, but a copy is not provided to the Review Board at the time of the review, this is cited as a policy and procedure violation.)

INCOMPLETE CASE PLAN

Treatment objectives were not defined in the case plan; the case plan was not signed by the parent(s) and there was no indication as to why that was not possible; or other parts of the 3016 Case Plan document were incomplete.

NO TIME FRAME

A time frame for completion of the permanent plan was not stated on the case plan document.

NO COURT ORDER AT REVIEW

A hearing was held at least 30 days prior to the Review Board meeting and a copy of the court order was not available for the Review Board as per regulation.

INTERESTED PARTIES NOT INVITED

Review was continued because interested parties specified by Review Board regulations were not invited to the review.

NO TIMELY MERIT

Merit hearing was not completed within the 40 day time frame stipulated by law or has not been held at all.

NO NON-CONCURRENCE SUBMITTED

Agency did not submit a written non-concurrence within 21 days of receipt of the previous Review Board recommendation as per statute.

NO PSYCHOLOGICAL AT REVIEW

A psychological evaluation was completed at least 30 days prior to review and a copy of this report was not available for the Review Board as per regulation.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER

Agency is not in compliance with court order.

NO TIMELY ADOPTION CONSUMMATION

The child reviewed is free for adoption and in adoptive placement but consummation was not completed within the time frames stipulated by the Adoption Act or the child has remained in "preadopt" status for an unreasonable period of time.

FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT PERM.PLAN

Systemic problems prevented achievement of permanent plan within reasonable time frame. This is usually considered after a child has been in care at least 18 months.

POLICY/PROCEDURE VIOLATION

Violations of DSS policies/procedures as outlined in agency policy manuals or violations of Review Board Regulations were documented during the case review.

NO PROGRESS PERMANENT PLAN

No progress was made to achieve permanent plan within the past six months.

OTHER

Case specific concerns that do not fall into above categories. These usually apply to case work issues (i.e. - sibling remaining in home determined to be at risk, needs of foster child not being met, foster child not enrolled in school for unreasonable period of time).

SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM

AREAS OF CONCERN COMPARITIVE STATS 1989

January 1, 1989 - June 30, 1989

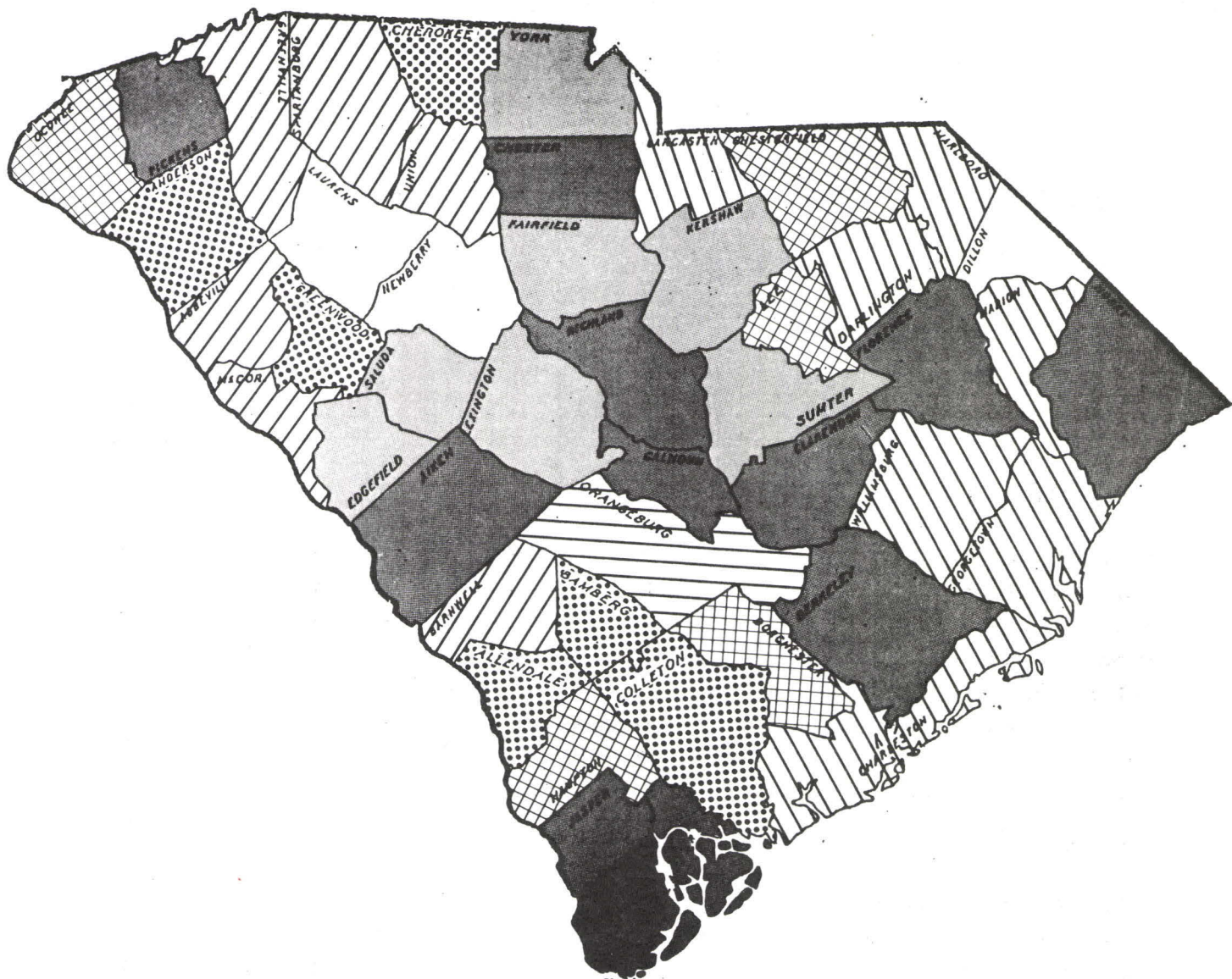
COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC	# OF REVIEWS	COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC	# OF REVIEWS
ABBEVILLE	27.9%	43	GREENWOOD	10.0%	30
AIKEN	60.1%	203	HAMPTON	37.0%	27
ALLENDALE	17.6%	17	HORRY	55.3%	150
ANDERSON	19.6%	163	JASPER	58.3%	12
BAMBERG	13.3%	15	KERSHAW	43.8%	32
BARNWELL	26.1%	23	LANCASTER	23.2%	69
BEAUFORT	72.6%	95	LAURENS	7.4%	27
BERKELEY	52.4%	63	LEE	30.8%	13
CALHOUN	90.0%	10	LEXINGTON	47.1%	138
CHARLESTON	26.1%	245	MARION	27.5%	51
CHEROKEE	12.1%	33	MARLBORO	23.3%	120
CHESTER	51.4%	72	MCCORMICK	31.6%	19
CHESTERFIELD	41.3%	63	NEWBERRY	9.1%	11
CLARENDON	59.2%	49	OCONEE	39.1%	87
COLLETON	14.3%	21	ORANGEBURG	22.4%	85
DARLINGTON	23.7%	59	PICKENS	62.3%	61
DILLON	8.1%	37	RICHLAND	59.1%	435
DORCHESTER	26.8%	41	SALUDA	43.4%	53
EDGEFIELD	50.0%	10	SPARTANBURG	26.7%	146
FAIRFIELD	41.9%	31	SUMTER	45.2%	84
FLORENCE	58.7%	109	UNION	22.2%	9
GEORGETOWN	23.8%	63	WILLIAMSBURG	21.2%	33
GREENVILLE	22.9%	201	YORK	39.2	74

AREA ADOPTIONS (Separate statistics for Area Adoptions not available for this time period)

Area Adoption I	-	-	Area Adoption IV	-	-
Area Adoption II	-	-	Area Adoption V	-	-
Area Adoption III	-	-	Area Adoption VI	-	-

**Areas of Concern are defined as violations of law or agency policy

AREAS OF CONCERN BY COUNTY JANUARY 1, 1989-JUNE 30, 1989



-  10%-20% children reviewed with Areas of Concern
-  20%-30% children reviewed with Areas of Concern
-  30%-40% children reviewed with Areas of Concern
-  40%-50% children reviewed with Areas of Concern
-  50% or more children reviewed with Areas of Concern

TABLE I
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1989 -JUNE 30, 1989

	ABBEVILLE	AIKEN	ALLENDALE	ANDERSON	BAMBERG	BARNWELL	BEAUFORT	BERKELEY	CALHOUN	CHARLESTON
Category I										
Entry not Reported Timely	1	2	--	3	--	--	2	7	--	10
No Timely Judicial Review	3	57	--	18	--	4	29	4	6	10
No Case Plan	4	4	1	--	--	--	2	3	--	3
Incomplete Case Plan	--	13	--	--	--	--	25	20	2	1
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	8	1	--	1	--	--	28	--	1	14
Sub - Total	16	77	1	22	--	4	86	34	9	38
Category II										
No Court Order at Review	--	8	--	--	--	1	--	1	--	9
Interested Parties Not Invited	--	10	--	1	--	--	6	--	1	6
No Timely Merit	--	6	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1
No Non-Concurrence	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--
No Psychologicals at Review	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	--
Non-Compliance with Court Order	--	15	--	3	--	--	15	1	--	1
Sub-Total	--	44	--	4	1	1	22	3	5	17
Category III										
No Timely Adoption Consummation	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	1	--
Failure to Implement Permanent Plan	1	5	2	4	--	5	2	--	--	3
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	--	28	1	1	--	1	15	7	1	12
No Progress on Permanent Plan	4	36	--	6	--	3	15	1	1	6
Other	--	4	--	1	--	--	4	--	--	7
Sub-Total	5	73	3	12	1	9	36	9	3	28
Total:										
Areas of Concern	21	194	4	38	2	14	144	46	17	83
Reviews of Children	43	203	17	163	15	23	95	63	10	245
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	12	122	3	32	2	6	69	33	9	64
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	27.9	60.1	17.6	19.6	13.3	26.1	72.6	52.4	90.0	26.1

TABLE I (CONTINUED)
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1989 - JUNE 30, 1989

	CHEROKEE	CHESTER	CHESTERFIELD	CLARENDON	COLLETON	DARLINGTON	DILLON	DORCHESTER	EDGEFIELD	FAIRFIELD
Category I										
Entry not Reported Timely	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
No Timely Judicial Review	2	10	3	9	--	8	2	1	3	4
No Case Plan	--	--	--	7	1	--	--	1	--	3
Incomplete Case Plan	--	2	1	1	2	--	--	1	--	3
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	--	1	--	--	1	5	--	1	--	5
Sub - Total	2	13	4	17	4	14	2	4	3	15
Category II										
No Court Order at Review	1	1	--	2	--	--	--	--	2	--
Interested Parties Not Invited	--	2	1	4	--	3	--	--	4	--
No Timely Merit	--	--	2	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
No Non-Concurrence	--	4	--	8	--	--	--	1	--	--
No Psychologicals at Review	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Non-Compliance with Court Order	--	2	--	2	--	--	1	--	--	--
Sub-Total	1	9	3	18	--	3	1	1	6	--
Category III										
No Timely Adoption Consummation	--	2	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Failure to Implement Permanent Plan	1	6	3	13	1	--	--	--	--	5
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	1	8	11	9	--	3	--	5	--	4
No Progress on Permanent Plan	--	1	5	--	--	3	--	1	--	1
Other	--	--	4	--	--	1	--	1	--	--
Sub-Total	2	17	27	22	1	7	--	7	--	13
Total:										
Areas of Concern	5	39	34	57	5	24	3	12	9	28
Reviews of Children	33	72	63	49	21	59	37	41	10	31
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	4	37	26	29	3	14	3	11	5	13
% Reviews w/ Areas of Concern	12.1	51.4	41.3	59.2	14.3	23.7	8.1	26.8	50.0	41.9

TABLE I (CONTINUED)
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1989 - JUNE 30, 1989

	FLORENCE	GEORGETOWN	GREENVILLE	GREENWOOD	HAMPTON	HORRY	JASPER	KERSHAW	LANCASTER	LAURENS
Category I										
Entry not Reported Timely	10	--	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
No Timely Judicial Review	38	2	14	2	4	21	3	3	9	1
No Case Plan	2	--	4	--	--	4	1	1	--	1
Incomplete Case Plan	3	--	--	--	--	10	2	--	--	--
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	22	--	--	--	4	3	4	1	1	1
Sub - Total	75	2	19	2	8	39	10	5	10	3
Category II										
No Court Order at Review	3	--	1	--	--	7	--	--	--	--
Interested Parties Not Invited	--	--	2	--	9	6	--	--	--	--
No Timely Merit	1	--	10	--	--	12	--	--	--	--
No Non-Concurrence	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	2	--
No Psychologicals at Review	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--
Non-Compliance with Court Order	--	1	--	--	--	3	--	2	6	--
Sub-Total	6	1	13	--	9	30	--	5	8	--
Category III										
No Timely Adoption Consummation	3	3	4	--	--	8	--	1	--	--
Failure to Implement Permanent Plan	3	5	1	--	--	4	2	1	1	--
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	7	6	5	1	--	18	--	4	1	--
No Progress on Permanent Plan	3	1	5	--	1	10	1	2	1	--
Other	5	--	4	--	3	2	1	1	--	--
Sub-Total	21	15	19	1	4	42	4	9	3	--
Total:										
Areas of Concern	102	18	51	3	21	111	14	19	21	3
Reviews of Children	109	63	201	30	27	150	12	32	69	27
Reviews of Children w/Areas of Concern	64	15	46	3	10	83	7	14	16	2
% Reviews w/ Areas of Concern	58.7	23.8	22.9	10.0	37.0	55.3	58.3	43.8	23.2	7.4

TABLE I (CONTINUED)
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1989 - JUNE 30, 1989

	LEE	LEXINGTON	MARION	MARLBORO	MCCORMICK	NEWBERRY	O'CONNOR	ORANGEBURG	PICKENS	RICHLAND	SALUDA
Category I											
Entry not Reported Timely	--	2	--	1	--	--	4	--	1	11	--
No Timely Judicial Review	1	17	7	6	--	--	19	4	17	54	--
No Case Plan	2	12	1	1	--	--	4	--	8	29	--
Incomplete Case Plan	--	10	--	5	--	--	--	1	--	12	1
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	--	6	--	--	--	--	--	2	1	9	2
Sub - Total	3	47	8	13	--	--	27	7	27	115	3
Category II											
No Court Order at Review	1	13	--	--	2	--	4	1	1	45	2
Interested Parties Not Invited	--	4	--	6	1	--	2	5	8	16	6
No Timely Merit	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	1	6	18	3
No Non-Concurrence	--	--	--	1	--	--	2	--	1	7	--
No Psychologicals at Review	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--
Non-Compliance with Court Order	--	2	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	61	2
Sub-Total	2	21	--	7	3	--	9	7	16	150	13
Category III											
No Timely Adoption Consummation	--	6	--	4	--	1	--	1	--	9	--
Failure to Implement Permanent Plan	--	1	--	3	--	--	1	1	9	85	1
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	1	12	2	2	--	--	2	--	10	85	6
No Progress on Permanent Plan	--	3	7	4	1	--	1	10	4	20	8
Other	1	--	--	2	2	--	1	--	3	9	1
Sub-Total	2	22	9	15	3	1	5	12	26	208	16
Total:											
Areas of Concern	7	90	17	35	6	1	41	26	69	473	32
Reviews of Children	13	138	51	120	19	11	87	85	61	435	53
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	4	65	14	28	6	1	34	19	38	257	23
% Reviews w/ Areas of Concern	30.8	47.1	27.5	23.3	31.6	9.1	39.1	22.4	62.3	59.1	43.4

TABLE I (CONTINUED)
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1989 - JUNE 30, 1989

	SPARTANBURG	SUMTER	UNION	WILLIAMSBURG	YORK	* BIRTH/AFF.	* BIRTH PAR.	* RELATIVE	STATE OFFICE	* OTHER	TOTAL
Category I											
Entry not Reported Timely	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
No Timely Judicial Review	5	8	-	1	13	-	-	-	1	-	423
No Case Plan	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109
Incomplete Case Plan	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	118
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	129
Sub - Total	17	10	-	1	20	-	-	-	1	-	837
Category II											
No Court Order at Review	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	110
Interested Parties Not Invited	4	14	-	4	1	-	6	3	-	-	135
No Timely Merit	6	2	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	79
No Non-Concurrence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Non-Compliance with Court Order	1	9	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	132
Sub-Total	12	27	2	4	6	-	10	3	-	1	504
Category III											
No Timely Adoption Consummation	6	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	62
Failure to Implement Permanent Plan	9	9	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	200
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	2	8	-	-	9	1	8	-	-	-	297
No Progress on Permanent Plan	4	1	-	2	8	-	2	-	-	-	182
Other	2	-	-	-	-	2	8	-	-	-	69
Sub-Total	23	19	-	2	33	3	18	-	-	-	810
Total:											
Areas of Concern	52	56	2	7	59	3	28	3	1	1	2151
Reviews of Children	146	84	9	33	74	262	211	39	1	3	3948
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	39	38	2	7	29	3	27	3	1	1	1396
% Reviews w/ Areas of Concern	26.7	45.2	22.2	21.2	39.2	1.1	12.8	7.7	100.0	33.3	35.4

* Private Cases Reviewed by FCRB

SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM

AREAS OF CONCERN COMPARITIVE STATS 1989

July 1, 1989 - December 31, 1989

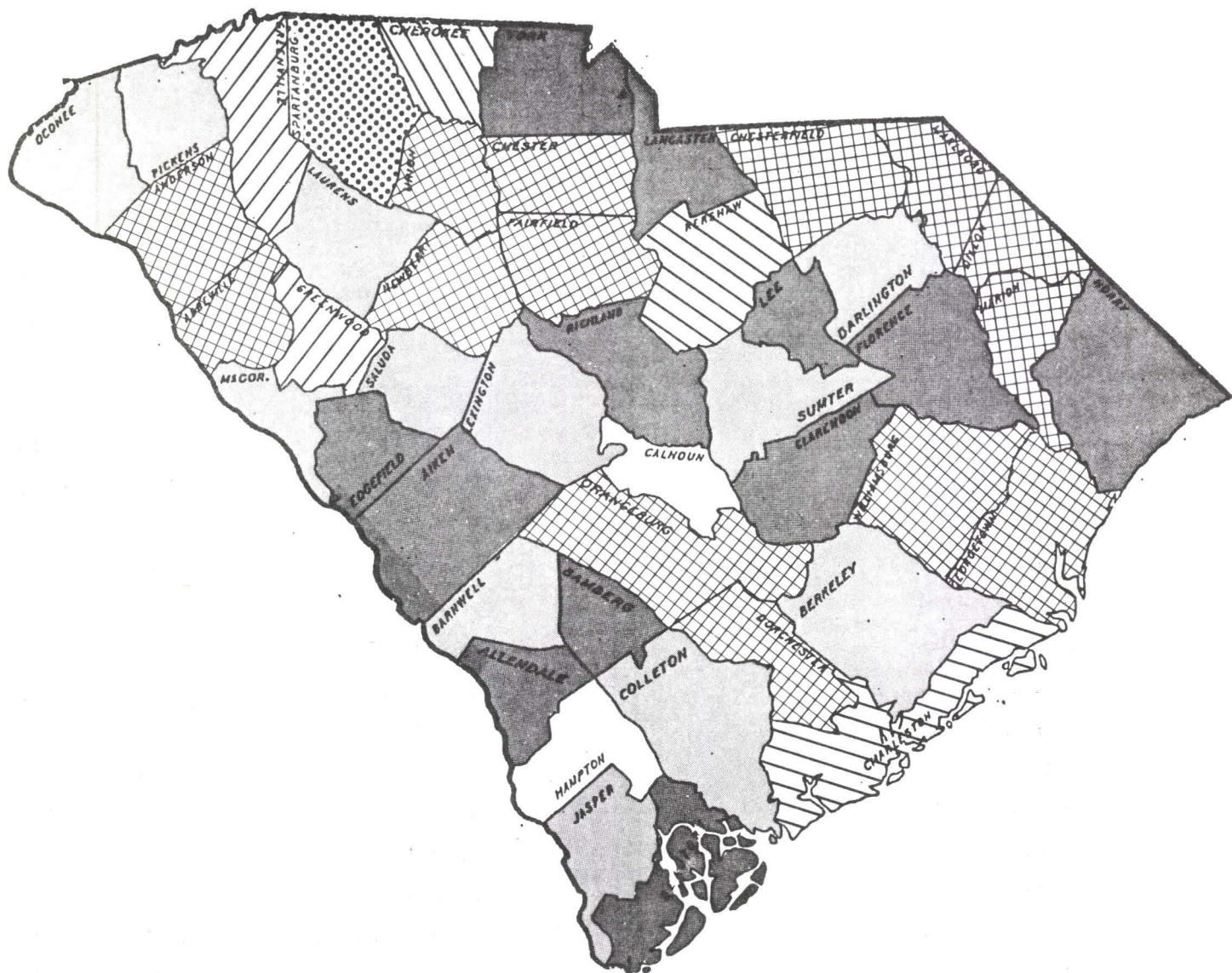
COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC	# OF REVIEWS	COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC	# OF REVIEWS
ABBEVILLE	39.5%	43	GREENWOOD	20.7%	29
AIKEN	59.6%	218	HAMPTON	0%	10
ALLENDALE	66.7%	18	HORRY	59.0%	205
ANDERSON	33.1%	151	JASPER	46.7%	15
BAMBERG	50.0%	16	KERSHAW	21.9%	32
BARNWELL	43.5%	23	LANCASTER	50.6%	81
BEAUFORT	80.3%	122	LAURENS	46.4%	28
BERKELEY	48.2%	110	LEE	64.7%	17
CALHOUN	.0%	17	LEXINGTON	48.3%	89
CHARLESTON	25.9%	251	MARION	33.8%	65
CHEROKEE	21.1%	38	MARLBORO	26.1%	92
CHESTER	32.3%	65	MCCORMICK	48.5%	33
CHESTERFIELD	32.6%	43	NEWBERRY	33.3%	3
CLARENDON	60.7%	56	OCONEE	41.1%	90
COLLETON	46.4%	28	ORANGEBURG	36.9%	122
DARLINGTON	47.7%	44	PICKENS	47.3%	55
DILLON	32.0%	25	RICHLAND	52.2%	427
DORCHESTER	38.6%	44	SALUDA	49.1%	57
EDGEFIELD	63.6%	11	SPARTANBURG	17.0%	171
FAIRFIELD	33.3%	27	SUMTER	45.3%	86
FLORENCE	60.0%	160	UNION	33.3%	9
GEORGETOWN	33.3%	72	WILLIAMSBURG	34.5%	29
GREENVILLE	28.0%	168	YORK	49.4%	85

AREA ADOPTIONS

Area Adoption I	83.3%	6	Area Adoption IV	39.0%	41
Area Adoption II	30.4%	23	Area Adoption V	48.6%	35
Area Adoption III	36.4%	33	Area Adoption VI	57.1%	14

**Areas of Concern are defined as violations of law or agency policy

AREAS OF CONCERN BY COUNTY JULY 1, 1989-DECEMBER 31, 1989



AREAS OF CONCERN BY AREA ADOPTION OFFICE JULY 1, 1989-DECEMBER 31, 1989

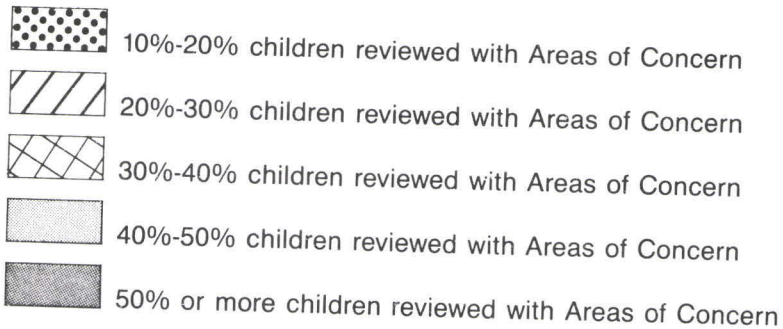
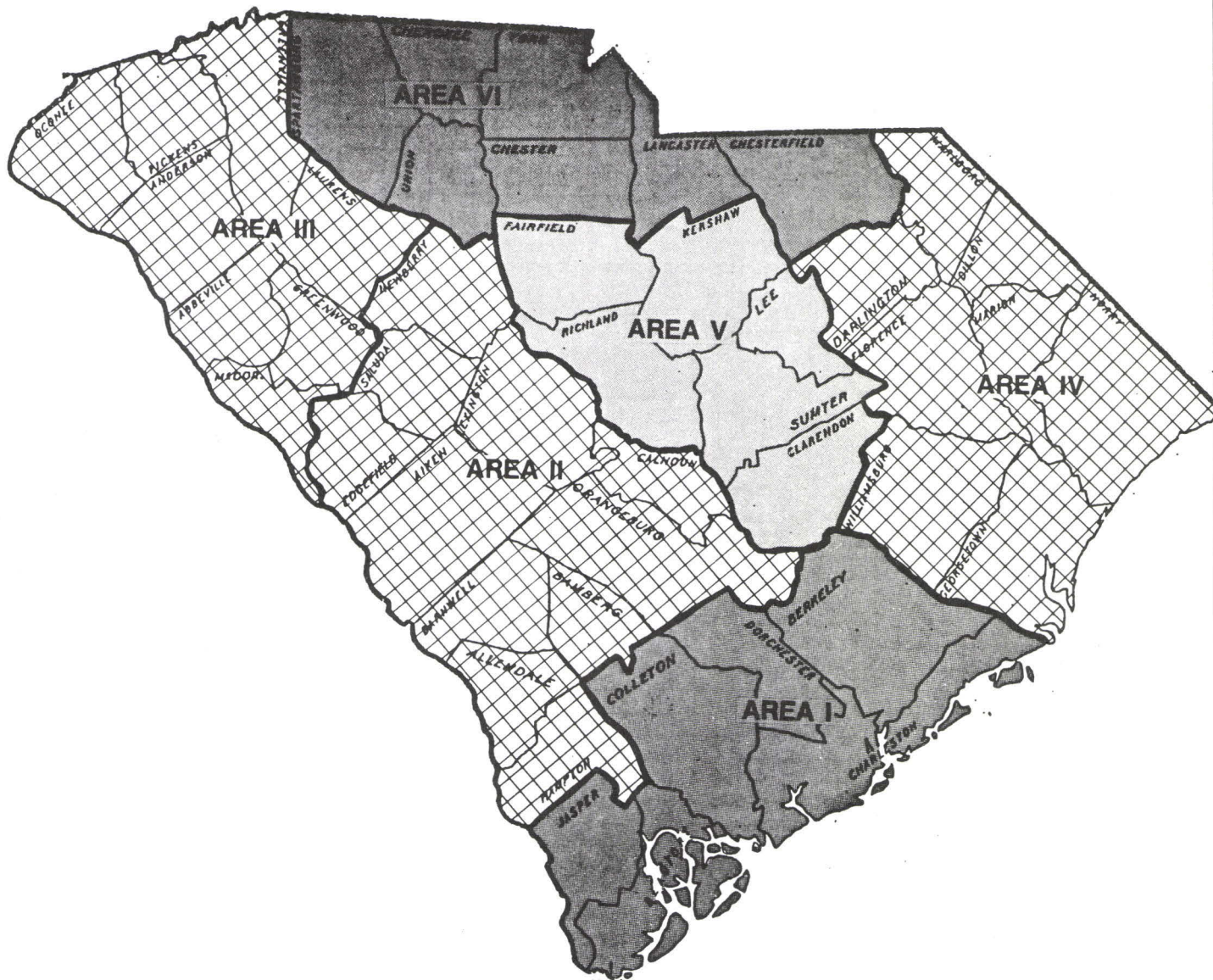


TABLE II
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JULY 1, 1989 - DECEMBER 31, 1989

	AREA I	AREA II	AREA III	AREA IV	AREA V	AREA VI	ABBEVILLE	AIKEN	ALLENDALE	ANDERSON
Category I										
Entry not Reported Timely	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	3	1	-
No Timely Judicial Review	-	5	7	3	3	6	1	55	2	20
No Case Plan	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	25	1	4
Incomplete Case Plan	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	3
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	4	-	-
Sub - Total	1	6	7	4	3	7	14	91	4	27
Category II										
No Court Order at Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	2	3
Interested Parties Not Invited	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	19	1	10
No Timely Merit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
No Non-Concurrence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Psychologicals at Review	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Compliance with Court Order	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
Sub-Total	1	3	-	1	1	-	1	41	5	13
Category III										
No Timely Adoption Consummation	-	2	4	1	8	1	-	-	-	2
Failure to Implement Permanent Plan	3	-	-	5	1	-	-	5	2	7
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	-	4	-	2	6	-	-	56	5	13
No Progress on Permanent Plan	-	-	1	4	-	-	7	12	-	-
Other	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Sub-Total	5	6	5	12	15	1	7	73	12	22
Total:										
Areas of Concern	7	15	12	17	19	8	22	205	21	62
Reviews of Children	6	23	33	41	35	14	43	218	18	151
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	5	7	12	16	17	8	17	130	12	50
% Reviews w/ Areas of Concern	83.3	30.4	36.4	39.0	48.6	57.1	39.5	59.6	66.7	33.1

TABLE II (CONTINUED)
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JULY 1, 1989 - DECEMBER 31, 1989

	BAMBERG	BARNWELL	BEAUFORT	BERKELEY	CALHOUN	CHARLESTON	CHEROKEE	CHESTER	CHESTERFIELD	CLARENDON	COLLETON
Category I											
Entry not Reported Timely	--	--	15	12	--	3	--	--	--	10	--
No Timely Judicial Review	2	4	37	22	--	17	2	11	1	18	2
No Case Plan	3	1	63	16	--	7	3	5	2	7	6
Incomplete Case Plan	--	--	--	7	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	1	--	6	1	--	10	--	--	--	--	--
Sub - Total	6	5	121	58	--	39	5	16	3	35	8
Category II											
No Court Order at Review	--	--	6	--	--	16	--	--	--	3	--
Interested Parties Not Invited	--	--	6	7	--	3	--	--	1	--	1
No Timely Merit	3	4	5	12	--	8	--	--	--	1	4
No Non-Concurrence	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	--
No Psychologicals at Review	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--
Non-Compliance with Court Order	--	--	27	3	--	--	--	--	1	8	1
Sub-Total	3	4	44	22	--	30	--	--	2	20	6
Category III											
No Timely Adoption Consummation	--	3	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
Failure to Implement Permanent Plan	--	--	4	1	--	5	2	2	3	13	--
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	2	--	19	7	--	3	2	3	4	14	1
No Progress on Permanent Plan	--	3	11	--	--	12	--	--	3	--	--
Other	--	--	6	--	--	2	--	1	1	--	--
Sub-Total	2	6	40	8	--	24	4	6	11	27	1
Total:											
Areas of Concern	11	15	205	88	--	93	9	22	16	82	15
Reviews of Children	16	23	122	110	17	251	38	65	43	56	28
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	8	10	98	53	0	65	8	21	14	34	13
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	50.0	43.5	80.3	48.2	0%	25.9	21.1	32.3	32.6	60.7	46.4

TABLE II (CONTINUED)

AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY

JULY 1, 1989 - DECEMBER 31, 1989

	DARLINGTON	DILLON	DORCHESTER	EDGEFIELD	FAIRFIELD	FLORENCE	GEORGETOWN	GREENVILLE	GREENWOOD	HAMPTON	HORRY	JASPER
Category I												
Entry not Reported Timely	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	2	-	6	-
No Timely Judicial Review	6	-	2	5	3	39	4	5	-	-	36	-
No Case Plan	-	3	-	5	-	11	1	4	-	-	22	1
Incomplete Case Plan	-	-	1	-	2	13	-	5	-	-	11	-
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	-	-	1	-	-	15	1	-	2	-	4	-
Sub - Total	6	3	4	10	5	82	6	15	4	-	79	1

Category II

No Court Order at Review	5	1	-	2	1	20	8	6	-	-	18	-
Interested Parties Not Invited	-	-	1	-	-	21	-	5	-	-	14	4
No Timely Merit	-	-	8	-	2	2	-	4	-	-	36	-
No Non-Concurrence	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Compliance with Court Order	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Sub-Total	5	2	11	4	6	45	10	16	-	-	70	6

Category III

No Timely Adoption Consummation	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	5	-	-	1	-
Failure to Implement Permanent Plan	4	-	2	-	-	3	6	3	-	-	-	-
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	9	1	6	-	3	50	8	4	-	-	27	-
No Progress on Permanent Plan	1	3	-	2	1	8	-	5	2	-	9	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Sub-Total	14	4	8	2	5	64	17	17	2	-	39	-

Total:

Areas of Concern	25	9	23	16	16	191	33	48	6	-	188	7
Reviews of Children	44	25	44	11	27	160	72	168	29	10	205	15
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	21	8	17	7	9	96	24	47	6	0	121	7
% Reviews w/ Areas of Concern	47.7	32.0	38.6	63.6	33.3	60.0	33.3	28.0	20.7	0%	59.0	46.7

TABLE II (CONTINUED)
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JULY 1, 1989 - DECEMBER 31, 1989

	KERSHAW	LANCASTER	LAURENS	LEE	LEXINGTON	MARION	MARLBORO	MCCORMICK	NEWBERRY	O'CONNOR	ORANGEBURG
Category I											
Entry not Reported Timely	--	4	2	--	1	4	--	--	--	2	1
No Timely Judicial Review	--	14	1	--	12	16	7	--	--	15	6
No Case Plan	--	5	2	--	8	--	1	2	1	8	--
Incomplete Case Plan	--	--	3	--	9	--	5	--	--	--	1
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	--	--	4	--	4	--	1	--	--	1	--
Sub - Total	--	23	12	--	34	20	14	2	1	26	8
Category II											
No Court Order at Review	--	4	2	2	3	--	--	3	--	7	3
Interested Parties Not Invited	--	3	--	--	6	--	--	--	--	2	1
No Timely Merit	1	3	2	1	4	--	1	--	--	--	3
No Non-Concurrence	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	2	--	--	--
No Psychologicals at Review	--	--	1	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
Non-Compliance with Court Order	--	3	--	--	2	--	1	--	--	4	4
Sub-Total	1	13	5	3	16	2	2	5	--	13	11
Category III											
No Timely Adoption Consummation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Failure to Implement Permanent Plan	3	4	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	2	6
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	3	9	2	8	11	--	2	11	--	11	19
No Progress on Permanent Plan	--	3	1	1	1	--	3	--	--	3	3
Other	--	4	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	1	7
Sub-Total	6	20	3	9	14	--	10	11	--	17	35
Total:											
Areas of Concern	7	56	20	12	64	22	26	18	1	56	54
Reviews of Children	32	81	28	17	89	65	92	33	3	90	122
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	7	41	13	11	43	22	24	16	1	37	45
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	21.9	50.6	46.4	64.7	48.3	33.8	26.1	48.5	33.3	41.1	36.9

TABLE II (CONTINUED)
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JULY 1, 1989 - DECEMBER 31, 1989

	PICKENS	RICHLAND	SALUDA	SPARTANBURG	SUMTER	UNION	WILLIAMSBURG	YORK	*BIRTH PARENT	* RELATIVE	* OTHER	TOTAL
Category I												
Entry not Reported Timely	—	5	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	87
No Timely Judicial Review	1	63	2	—	11	—	4	5	—	—	—	475
No Case Plan	4	22	3	5	3	—	—	5	—	—	—	261
Incomplete Case Plan	—	22	8	6	—	—	1	7	—	—	—	111
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	1	5	1	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	75
Sub - Total	6	117	14	12	14	--	6	24	1	--	--	1009
Category II												
No Court Order at Review	5	38	5	1	2	—	1	5	—	—	—	185
Interested Parties Not Invited	—	19	3	—	3	—	—	10	13	—	1	157
No Timely Merit	3	12	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	134
No Non-Concurrence	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
No Psychologicals at Review	—	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
Non-Compliance with Court Order	3	49	1	5	2	—	—	3	1	—	—	129
Sub-Total	13	127	9	8	11	--	2	21	14	--	1	649
Category III												
No Timely Adoption Consummation	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	38
Failure to Implement Permanent Plan	10	63	—	5	28	—	3	10	—	—	—	210
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	10	86	20	8	22	3	3	12	3	1	—	493
No Progress on Permanent Plan	—	17	5	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	125
Other	3	11	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	55
Sub-Total	23	177	28	14	50	3	6	26	6	3	--	921
Total:												
Areas of Concern	42	421	51	34	75	3	14	71	21	3	1	2579
Reviews of Children	55	427	57	171	86	9	29	85	172	21	5	3903
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	26	223	28	29	39	3	10	42	15	3	1	1650
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	47.3	52.2	49.1	17.0	45.3	33.3	34.5	49.4	8.7	14.3	20.0	42.3

*Private Cases Reviewed by FCRB

SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

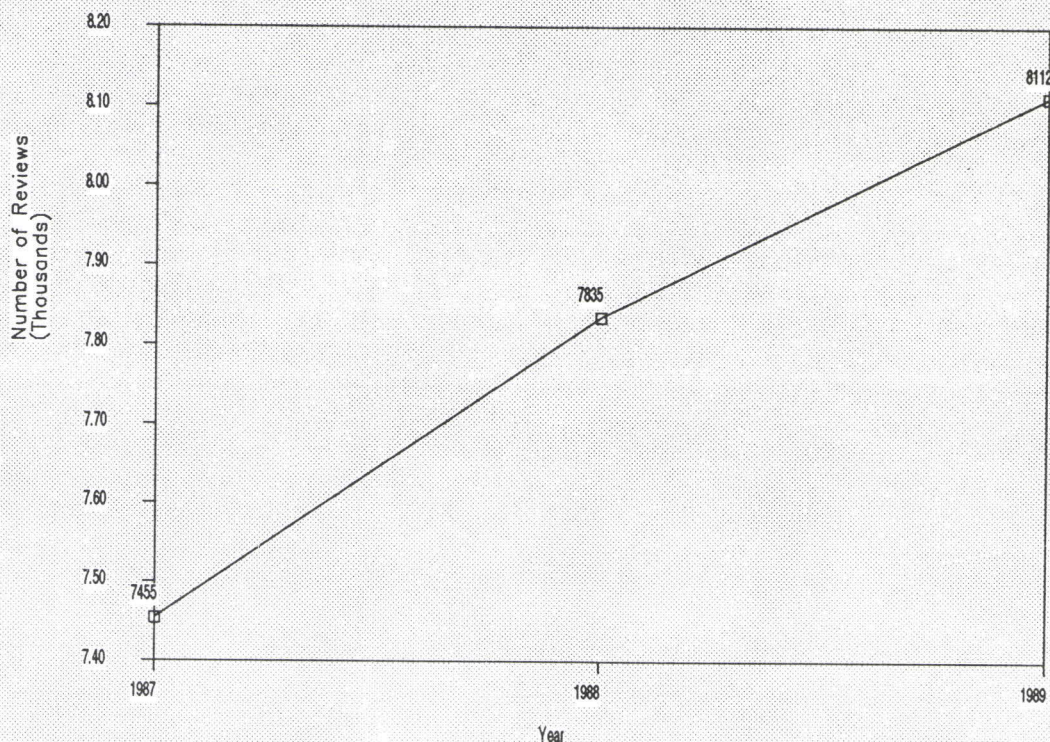
1989 DEMOGRAPHIC AND EVALUATIVE DATA ON FOSTER CARE POPULATION AND REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System implemented an in-house computer information system in 1987. This system is designed to track and analyze data on children reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System. Comparison of data gathered in 1987 with data gathered in 1988 and 1989 may be limited in several areas because of program changes made to improve and expand the system. Questions related to data comparison should be referred to the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

The data system continues to provide the means to produce a comprehensive analysis of statistical information on children monitored by the Review Board. The Review Board continues to use collected data to better identify the foster care population and to improve the foster care system in South Carolina through recommendations made each year to the General Assembly. Review Board recommendations for 1989-90 are contained on pages 15 through 19 of this report.

The Review Board conducted a total of 8112 reviews in 1989 on a total of 4586 children. This is a 3.5 % increase over the number of reviews conducted by the Review Board in 1988. Table A illustrates the increase in the number of reviews conducted by the Review Board since 1987.

TABLE A
REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY FCRB 1987-1989



The number of individual reviews conducted each month in 1989 by each local Review Board is depicted in Table B. The increased number of children entering foster care and requiring review will necessitate the creation of additional Review Boards in 1990.

TABLE B
1989 REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY LOCAL REVIEW BOARDS

BOARD	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
1A	18	27	-	26	10	-	23	21	-	28	41	4	198
1B	-	26	18	11	11	-	12	23	16	5	13	-	135
2A	28	18	20	35	19	14	18	30	12	26	29	29	291
2B	12	-	29	12	17	13	22	-	17	19	23	10	174
3A	20	11	24	-	13	-	21	28	25	-	10	-	152
3B	16	19	29	15	34	-	23	18	23	18	25	10	230
4A	3	44	18	32	27	28	22	14	23	25	35	-	271
4B	-	23	29	16	22	18	-	20	21	13	23	15	200
5A	29	26	25	9	36	12	24	23	28	8	55	10	285
5B	27	29	21	44	48	27	25	23	33	21	34	37	369
5C	12	10	12	13	30	7	7	22	-	13	25	9	160
5D	32	22	30	33	36	31	39	24	51	32	32	38	400
6A	29	42	31	31	30	-	40	38	25	32	35	-	333
7A	15	13	20	31	15	-	19	-	30	26	22	-	191
7B	16	12	12	8	28	20	15	22	17	22	24	22	218
8A	26	22	25	30	72	18	18	26	29	27	62	21	376
8B	10	35	15	-	18	-	14	29	25	21	-	-	167
9A	19	22	17	22	21	26	19	16	19	18	18	31	248
9B	36	20	24	14	11	13	25	24	22	33	49	-	271
9C	18	13	20	21	31	-	18	18	19	34	27	-	219
10A	35	12	16	37	29	21	27	22	14	33	28	12	286
10B	25	20	27	31	23	25	25	27	26	24	17	19	289
11A	29	37	33	30	24	20	23	19	25	36	29	23	328
11B	15	32	18	25	26	-	18	22	18	19	27	18	238
12A	22	31	34	27	29	-	29	28	42	44	40	24	350
13A	18	15	17	18	26	10	19	13	16	18	18	10	198
13B	19	16	17	16	19	24	15	18	16	20	34	-	214
13C	22	19	22	19	16	16	16	14	19	28	24	-	212
14A	-	9	27	33	24	-	-	17	23	19	26	-	178
14B	19	19	22	-	12	-	15	27	24	23	-	16	177
15A	-	30	32	-	19	9	14	23	19	29	17	15	207
15B	27	29	22	21	26	19	32	30	27	33	34	22	322
16A	18	9	21	19	13	25	22	26	21	13	38	-	225
TOTALS:	615	712	727	679	815	409	659	705	722	760	914	395	8112

What does it look like to be a foster child in South Carolina?

If you take away the numbers, remove the charts and averages, what did a child in foster care in South Carolina during 1989 look like? How many foster homes did he experience? Why was he placed in foster care? How long will he have to stay in foster care? Where will he go when he leaves the system?

The average composite picture of a child in foster care and reviewed by the Review Board during 1989 is that of a seven year old black male placed in public foster care due to a Family Court finding of neglect. This neglect may have been the result of having been left alone without supervision for an extended period of time, having no food in the house and going to school hungry or his family may have been among the rising number of homeless people in South Carolina.

He will spend over three years in foster care before returning to his parents. While in foster care he will live in two or more different foster care placements. His case will be reviewed by a Foster Care Review Board approximately five times and he will come before the Family Court two, or possibly three, times before custody is returned to his parents. He will probably re-enter foster care at least once before his seventeenth birthday.

Data outlined in the tables that follow will provide additional information on all children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board during 1989 and will provide data about the review process. All statistics in this report reflect data that was reported to the Foster Care Review Board by public and private foster care providers as of January 31, 1990.

Who makes up the foster care population in South Carolina?

It is important to remember that each of the 4586 children reviewed in 1989 are individuals. Each number has a face. The names and numbers may change, but their basic need for a permanent, stable and nurturing home situation does not. The growing numbers in each category clearly illustrate the overall programmatic and budgetary needs of an overburdened foster care system.

The three following charts compare 1988 and 1989 data on: Table C) the age of children entering the foster care system; Table D) the age of children leaving the foster care system and Table E) the age of children whose cases were active and reviewed during 1988 and 1989.

These statistics indicate a forty percent (40%) increase in the number of children one year old or less who entered the foster care system in 1989 as compared to 1988. Statistics also indicate a thirty-four percent (34%) increase in the category of two to five year olds entering the foster care system. The young age at which these children are entering the foster care system increases concern about the length of time children are spending in care. Please see Table C Page 44.

A decrease in the teenage population in each of these three categories is also evident.

TABLE C

**1988 - 1989 AGE COMPARISON
CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE AND REVIEWED BY FCRB**

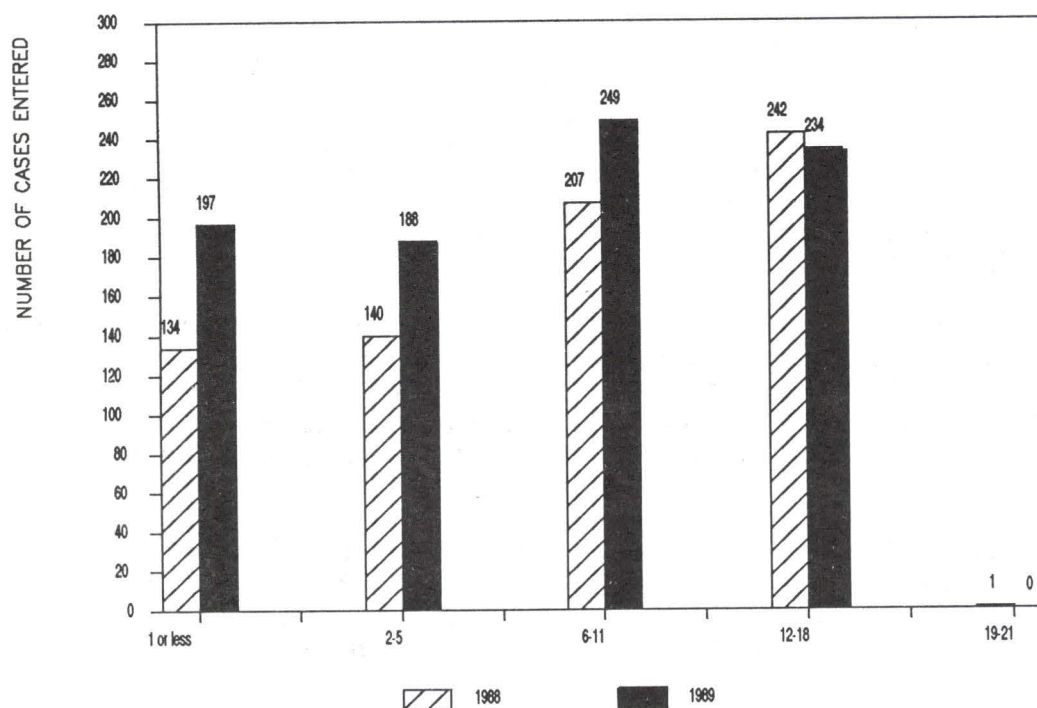


TABLE D
1988 - 1989 AGE COMPARISON
CHILDREN REVIEWED BY FCRB AND CLOSED

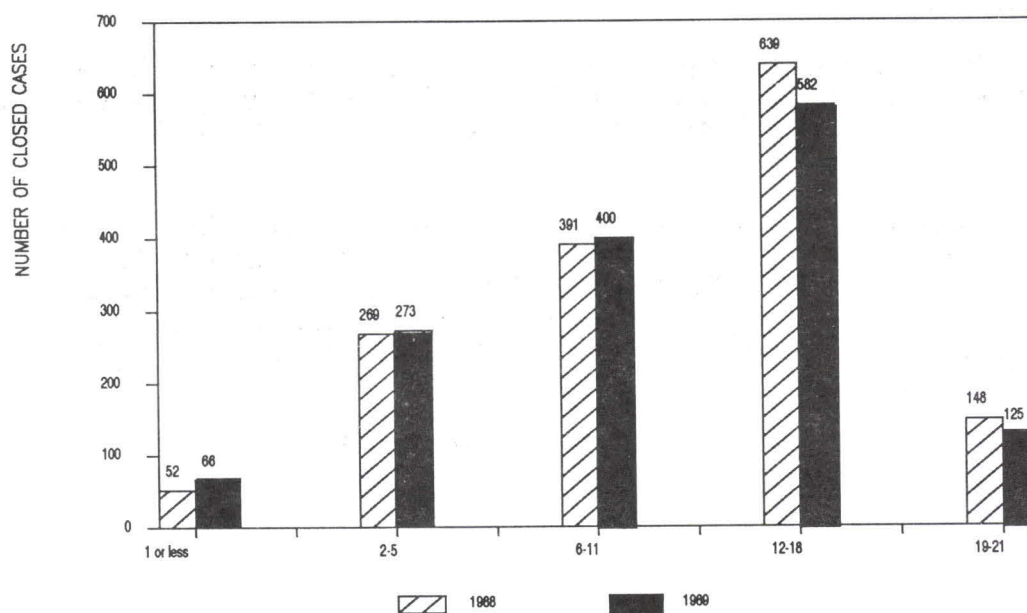


TABLE E
1988 - 1989 AGE COMPARISON
CHILDREN REVIEWED BY FCRB AND STILL ACTIVE

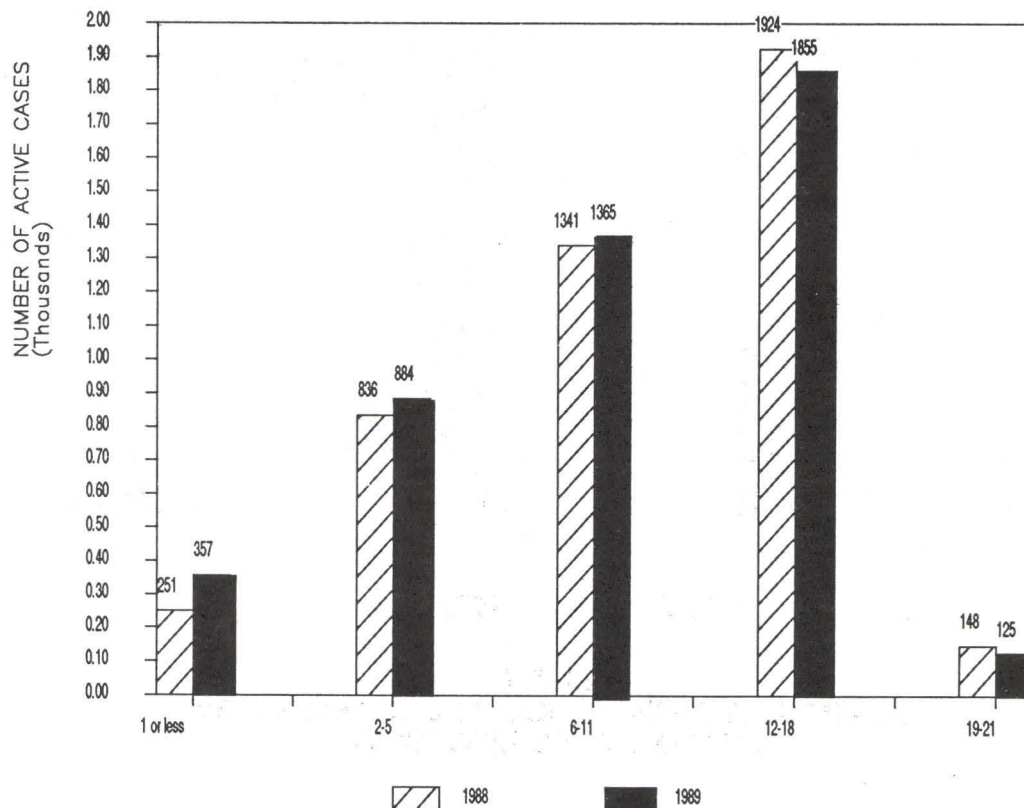


Table F compares the race of children who were reviewed during 1988 and remained active in 1988 with the race of children who were reviewed during 1989 and remained active at the end of 1989. Table G provides the same comparative analysis by sex of children reviewed during 1988 and 1989.

Data presented in Table F and in Table G parallels national statistics indicating an increase in the number of male children entering the foster care population who are either black or of another minority race. In previous years the racial balance of the foster care population has been evenly balanced between black and/or minority children in care and white children in care. Foster Care Review Board data for 1989 shows for the first time an increase in the minority foster care population as compared to the white foster care population in South Carolina, as well as a four percent (4%) increase in the number of males with cases active during 1989.

TABLE F

**COMPARITIVE STATISTICS BY RACE 1988 - 1989
ACTIVE CASES REVIEWED**

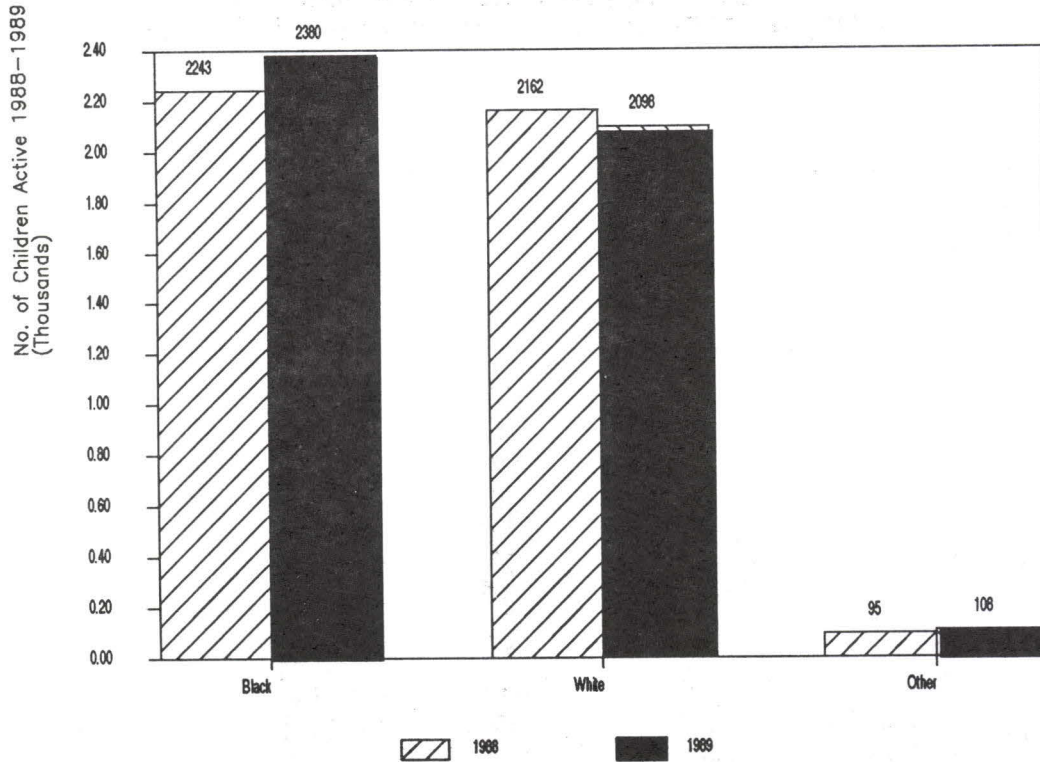
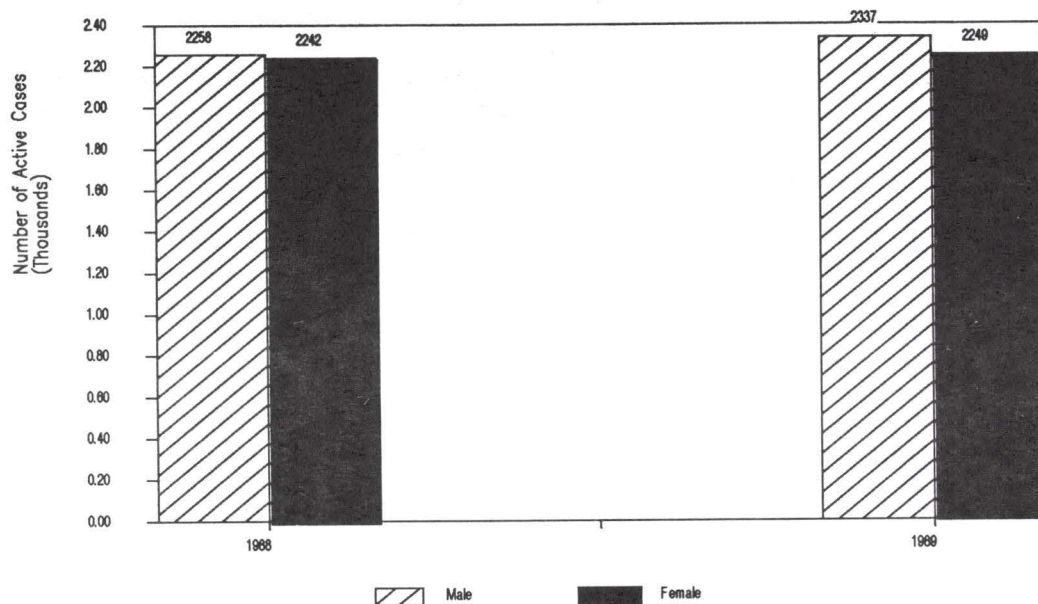


TABLE G
**COMPARITIVE STATISTICS BY SEX 1988 - 1989
ACTIVE CASES REVIEWED**



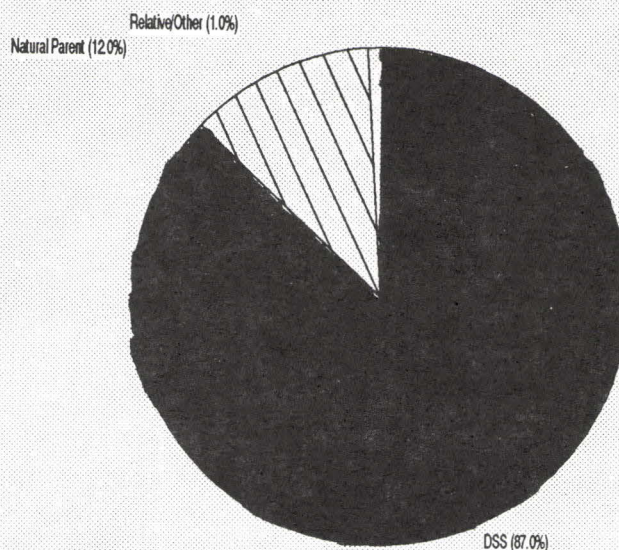
Who holds legal custody of the children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board?

The Foster Care Review Board is legally mandated to review all children who have been in public foster care for a period of more than four months and all children who have been in private foster care for a period of more than six months. Children placed in public foster care become wards of the state through the Family Court with legal custody being transferred to the Department of Social Services. Legal custody of privately placed children is maintained throughout the child's time in foster care by birth parents, relatives, or other individuals responsible for placing the child.

The majority of children reviewed are children in public foster care for whom the Department of Social Services is legally responsible (87%). The remainder of the population of children reviewed by local Review Boards (13%) reside in private children's homes, Department of Youth Services institutions and/or group homes, or John de la Howe School, a state supported institution. During 1989, reviews were conducted at 23 private children's homes in the state.

Table H describes the different parties holding legal custody of both privately and publicly placed children in foster care and reviewed during 1989.

TABLE H
CHILDREN REVIEWED DURING 1989
STATEWIDE PARTIES HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY



Why were children placed in foster care during 1989?

During 1989, children reviewed in South Carolina came into foster care in one of the four following ways: 1) Eighty-five percent (85%) were placed involuntarily through the Family Court as a result of neglect, abuse, abandonment or dependency; 2) Eleven percent (11%) were voluntarily placed by their custodial parents; 3) Two percent (2%) entered as a result of a juvenile offense; and; 4) Two percent (2%) were voluntarily relinquished for the purpose of adoption.

Table I presents statewide data on the percentage of placements for each type of placement. The percentage of children placed due to abuse on the statewide chart combine the categories of physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. The individual categories of each type of abuse are designated with associated percentages in Table J. Both tables indicate that neglect (43%) continues to be the most frequent reason for placement of children in foster care in South Carolina.

TABLE I
CHILDREN REVIEWED DURING 1989
STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASON

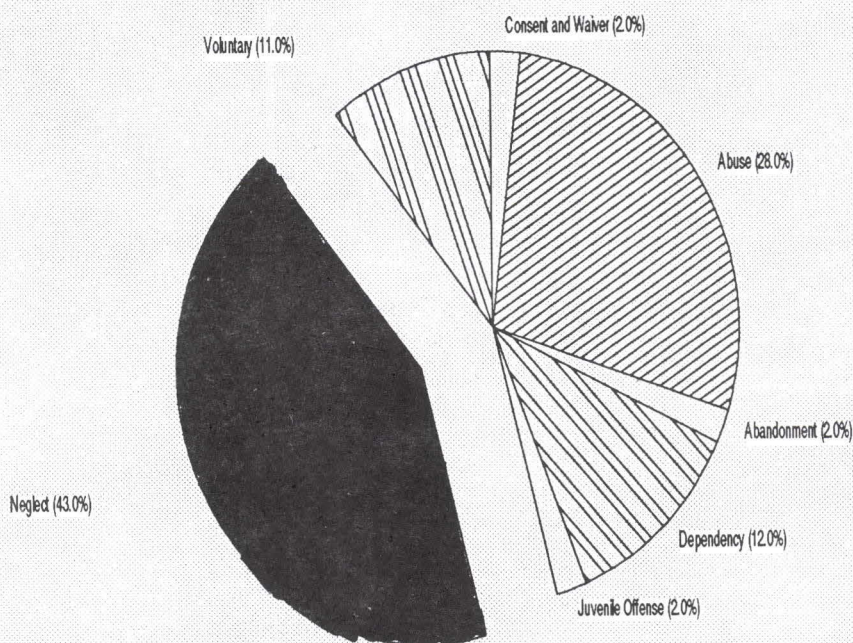


TABLE J
STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASONS FOR
CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE - 1989*

Time Period: 1/1/89-12/31/89

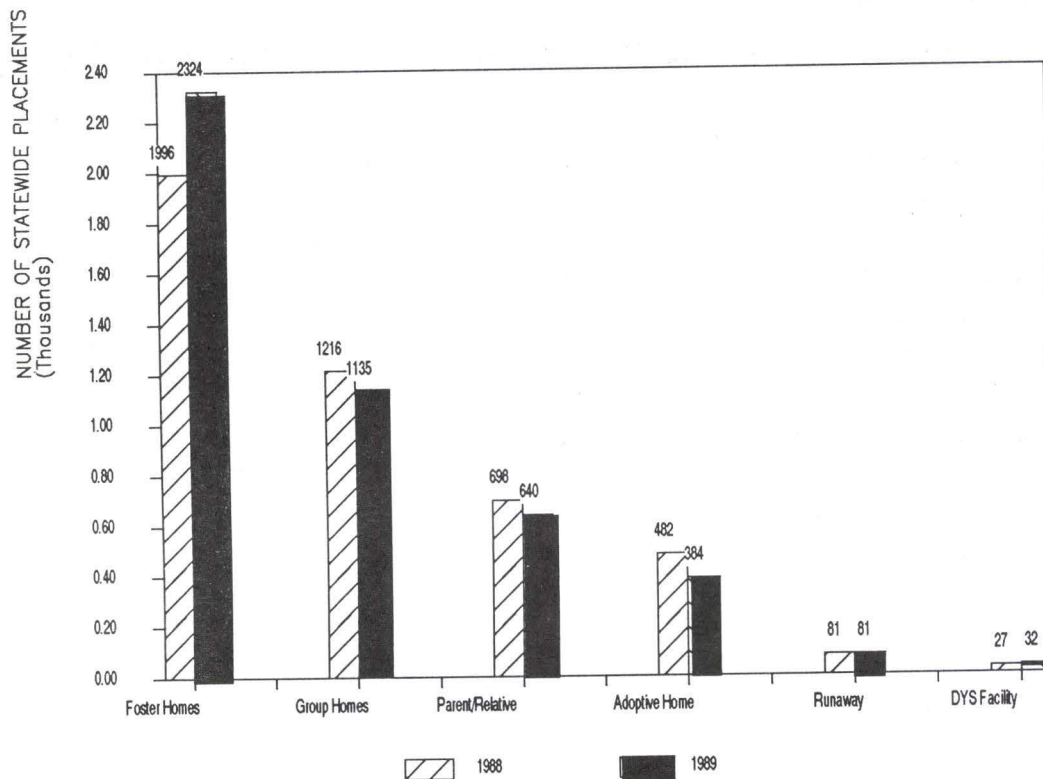
<u>PLACEMENT REASON</u>		<u>NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL PLACEMENTS</u>
1)	NEGLECT	346	39.9
2)	THREAT/NEGLECT	26	3.0
3)	ABUSE/PHYSICAL	90	10.4
4)	THREAT/PHYSICAL	56	6.5
5)	ABUSE/SEXUAL	70	8.1
6)	THREAT/SEXUAL	14	1.6
7)	ABUSE/EMOTIONAL	14	1.6
8)	ABANDONMENT	15	1.7
9)	DEPENDENCY	103	11.9
10)	VOLUNTARY	93	10.7
11)	CONSENT AND WAIVER	21	2.4
12)	JUVENILE OFFENSE	20	2.3
TOTALS:		868	100.0

* Reflects only those children reviewed by the Review Board for the first time during 1989.

Where were children placed who were reviewed by the Review Board in 1989?

Children can be placed in several different types of foster care placements. Table K compares the number of each placement type for children reviewed during 1988 with the number of each placement type for children reviewed during 1989. This data shows a sixteen percent (16%) increase in the number of children who were placed in foster homes during 1989 and a twenty percent (20%) decrease in the number of children placed in prospective adoptive homes.

TABLE K
STATEWIDE PLACEMENT LOCATION
COMPARITIVE STATISTICS 1988 - 1989



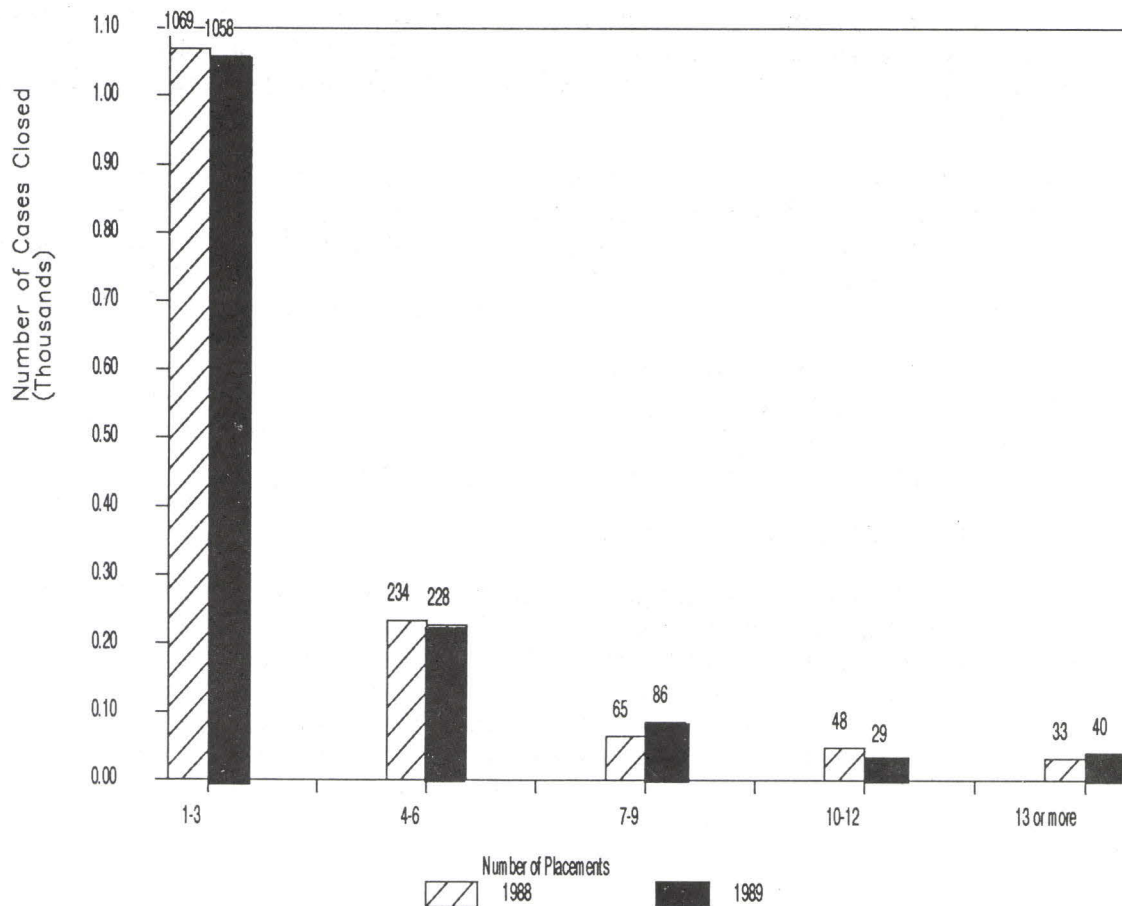
How many placements did children leaving care in 1989 experience?

Children removed from their families and placed in foster care frequently experience more than one placement while in care. Research shows the initial placement in foster care is extremely traumatic for a child and additional moves once in the foster care system can be very detrimental to the child's development. The younger the child, the more critical the need for stability becomes. The fact that the average age of children entering the the foster care population has become younger each year increases the need for preventive services that may prevent removal and also increases the need for intense services to families for early reunification if children are removed from their homes. An earlier emphasis on adoptive planning is needed for children who must enter the foster care system and cannot return to their families.

Table L compares the number of placements experienced by children reviewed during 1988 with the number of placements experienced by children reviewed during 1989. This data indicates that the majority of children in foster care experience between one and three different placements while in foster care.

Of the children who left care during 1989, three percent (3%) (40 children) experienced thirteen or more placements while in foster care. This is a 21% increase over 1988 figures for the number of children who experienced a high frequency of moves while in foster care.

TABLE L
NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS STATEWIDE - CHILDREN CLOSED
COMPARITIVE STATISTICS 1988 - 1989



What do local Review Boards recommend for these children?

Local Review Boards issue a written recommendation for a permanent placement plan on each case reviewed. These recommendations are made after the Board has carefully considered all facts presented by the responsible caseworkers and interested parties attending the review. Table M describes the number and type of recommendations issued by local Review Boards on cases reviewed during 1989.

Seven percent (7%) of cases scheduled for review by local Review Boards in 1989 were continued. Cases must be continued if interested parties are not invited to attend reviews. Review Board regulations require that all interested parties receive three weeks advance notice of reviews to ensure that parties in interest are aware that the child's case is being reviewed and to afford them an opportunity to attend. The invitations to attend reviews are issued by the Department of Social Services or the private foster care provider.

Table M indicates the number and percentage for each of the eleven permanent plans recommended by local Review Boards during 1989. Table N compares the number of the six most frequently recommended plans made by local Review Boards to 1988 recommended plans.

The increase in the number of recommendations for termination of parental rights and adoption made by local Review Boards is attributed to the Department of Social Services procedures that no longer allows counties to pursue termination of parental rights for a child until an adoptive home is identified. A permanent plan for termination of parental rights and adoption may be recommended for a child several times by a local Review Board while the search for an adoptive home is being conducted by the Regional Adoption staff of the Department of Social Services. The process of recruiting for an adoptive home can be very time consuming and may not even begin until after a child has already spent several years in foster care. In many cases, the legal process of termination of parental rights is not initiated by the Department of Social Services legal staff until after an adoptive home is identified. This sequential method of planning for the child too often unnecessarily lengthens the amount of time spent in foster care.

The delays caused by the sequential process discussed above can result in the implementation of less permanent plans for children in foster care. Data shows an increased percentage of children for whom local Review Boards recommended plans of permanent foster care (14% increase) and plans of independent living (10% increase). The Review Board believes that the increase in these two recommendations is related to the lengthy process necessary to complete termination of parental rights and adoption for a child. The time involved in completing each portion of the sequential process in some cases jeopardize a child's chances of being returned home or being placed in a permanent adoptive home.

TABLE M

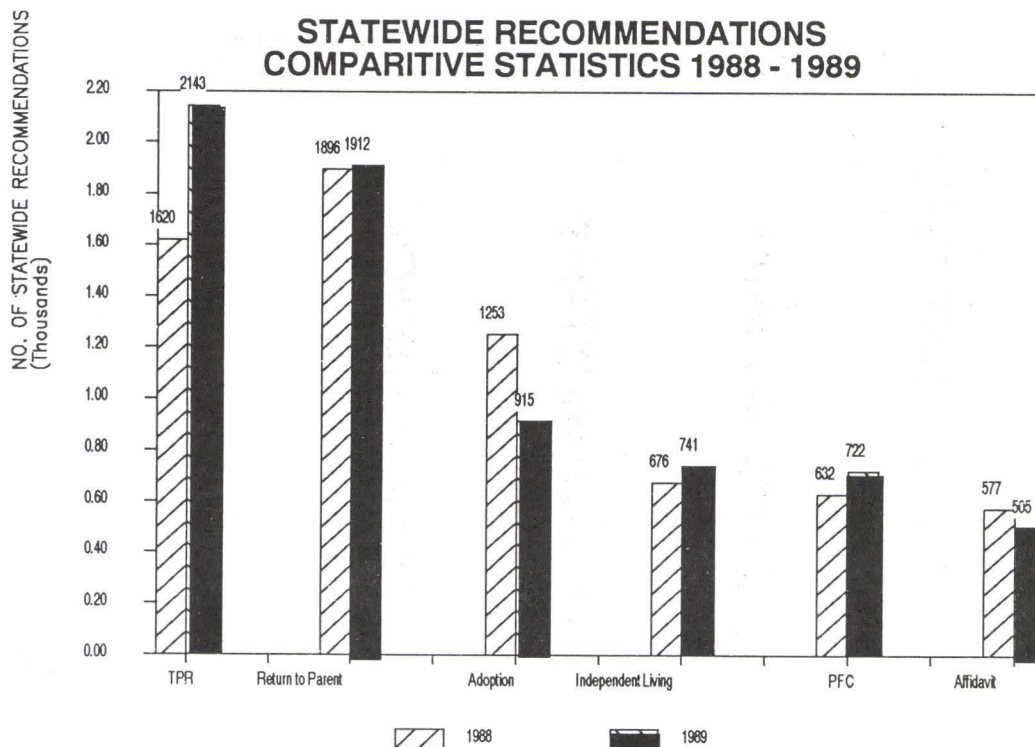
STATEWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS - 1989

Time Period: 1/1/89 - 12/31/89

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF STATE TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
1) TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS	2143	26.4
2) RETURN TO PARENT	1912	23.6
3) ADOPTION	915	11.3
4) INDEPENDENT LIVING	741	9.1
5) PERMANENT FOSTER CARE	722	8.9
6) CASE CONTINUED	572	7.0
7) AFFIDAVIT OF SUMMARY REVIEW	505	6.2
8) RELATIVE PLACEMENT	298	3.7
9) RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT	232	2.9
10) PERMANENT GROUP HOME	60	0.7
11) OTHER	12	0.1
TOTALS:	8112	100.0

TABLE N

**STATEWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS
COMPARITIVE STATISTICS 1988 - 1989**



How many interested parties attend reviews?

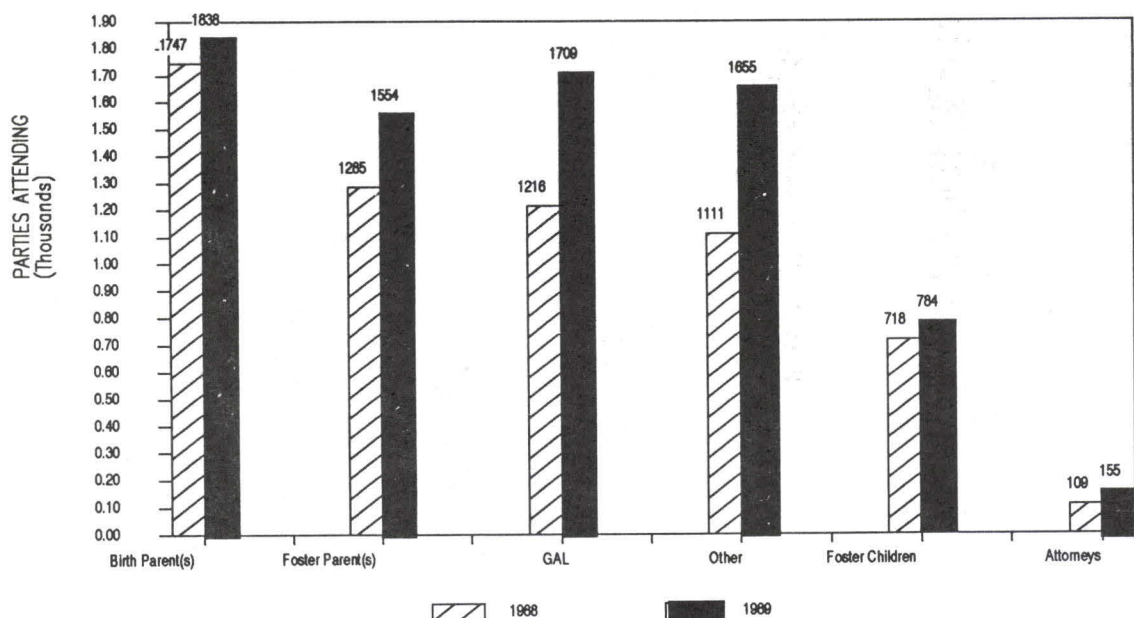
Review Board regulations require that written notice be sent three weeks prior to the scheduled review to the following individuals at their last known address: both birth/legal parents; legal guardians; current Guardians ad Litem; both foster parents; and foster children ten years of age or older. These notices are distributed by the agency/institution responsible for presenting the case to the Review Board. Regulations also specify that each of these parties should be encouraged to attend the review.

Table O compares the number of interested parties attending reviews in 1988 to the total number of interested parties attending reviews during 1989. The 1989 attendance totals reflect a twenty-four percent (24%) increase over the total attendance at reviews in 1988. These numbers also indicate a seven percent (7%) increase in the overall percentage of reviews with attendance for 1989 as compared to 1988 percentages. The increased participation speaks to the need for lower caseloads for each local Review Board. The participation of interested parties is an important factor in the review process for each child which can identify barriers that prevent implementation of a permanent plan. Adequate time must be allotted during each review for all parties present to be heard. This has become extremely difficult for local Review Boards to do when coupled with the rising number of children entering the foster care population.

As noted in Table M, seven percent (7%) of cases scheduled for review by local Boards during 1989 were continued due to interested parties not being invited to attend as per regulation. Pilot projects designed to improve notification to interested parties have been initiated in three counties.

Training conducted by Foster Care Review Board staff for the Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program during the past year has encouraged volunteer guardians ad litem to participate in reviews. Attendance by guardians at reviews during 1989 increased by forty percent (40%). Information provided by guardians at reviews has been extremely beneficial and has enhanced the quality of case reviews for children in foster care.

TABLE O
PARTIES ATTENDING REVIEWS STATEWIDE
COMPARITIVE STATISTICS 1988 - 1989



Where do children go when they leave foster care?

One thousand, four hundred and forty-one (1,441) of the children reviewed by the Review Board left care in 1989. Forty-nine percent (49%) of these children were returned to their parents. Nineteen percent (19%) were legally adopted and seventeen percent (17%) left the system by emancipation.

A major goal of foster care review is to achieve permanent placement for a child as soon as possible; therefore, it is important to measure the amount of time a child spends in care. 1989 data shows a five percent (5%) increase in the number of children leaving care who spent less than one year in foster care as compared to 1988 figures. The citizen review system has proven to be effective in bringing attention to the many barriers which prolong a child's stay in foster care. Citizen review systems nationwide are committed to working to eliminate these barriers and improve the foster care system in our country.

Table Q compares the number of children leaving foster care in each category during 1989 with the number of children who left care during 1988. While the data shows a four percent (4%) increase in the number of children who returned to their parents, the data also shows a one percent (1%) decrease in the number of children who were placed adoptively. This decrease is of concern to the Review Board due to the fact that a higher percentage of recommendations issued during 1989 were for a permanent plan of termination of parental rights and adoption. (See Table M)

The twenty percent (20%) increase in the number of children who were emancipated from the foster care system indicates that a large population of children who remain in foster care stay in care until they reach the age of majority and never have a permanent plan implemented for them during their time in foster care.

TABLE Q
STATEWIDE CLOSING REASONS
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1988 - 1989

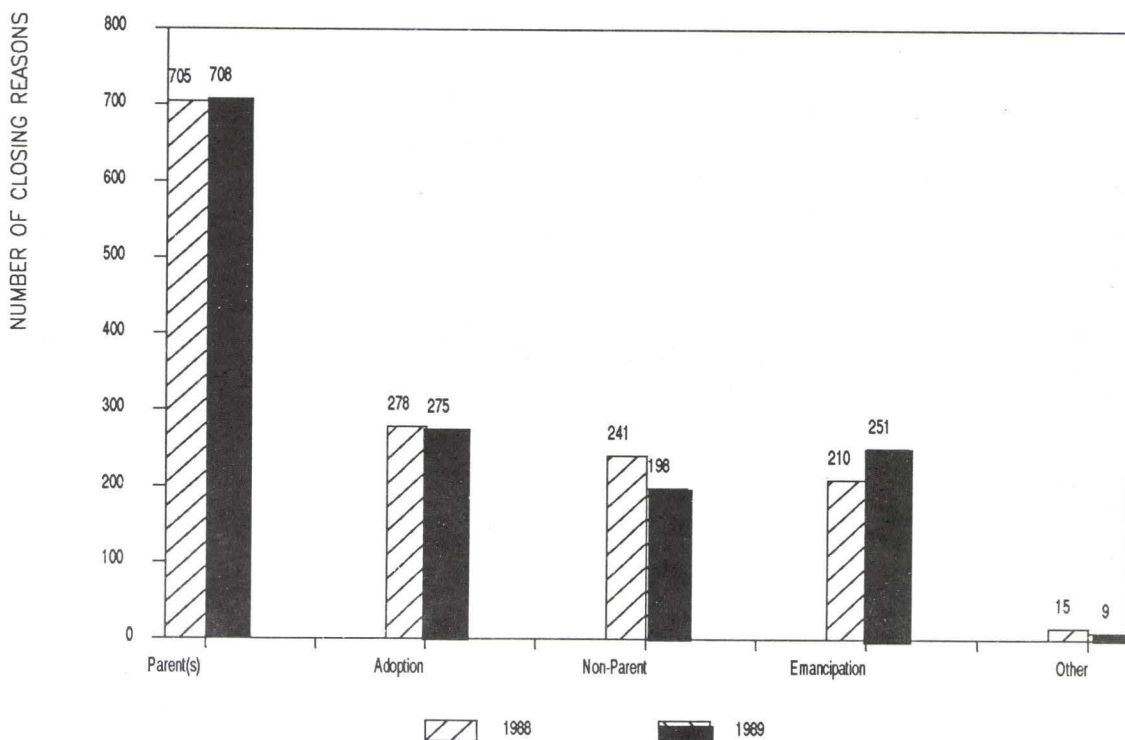


Table P presents the attendance totals for interested parties at reviews by parties holding legal custody.

*OTHER parties attending reviews would include: professionals other than Department of Social Services Staff who are involved with the child's case; family members other than birth parents and other advocates that family may wish to be present

TABLE P
PARTIES ATTENDING REVIEWS - 1989

COUNTY	BIRTH PARENTS	FOSTER PARENTS	CHILD	GAL	ATTORNEY(S)	OTHER	TOTAL # PARTIES ATTENDING	TOTAL # REVIEWS	TOTAL # OF REVIEWS WITH PARTIES ATTENDING	PERCENTAGE OF REVIEWS WITH PARTIES ATTENDING
Abbeville	15	28	18	6	-	16	83	86	39	45.3
Aiken	116	134	61	137	-	103	551	421	278	66.0
Allendale	-	7	1	-	-	1	9	35	7	20.0
Anderson	85	42	26	18	-	81	252	314	141	44.9
Bamberg	6	2	2	20	-	7	37	31	24	77.4
Barnwell	9	18	8	9	-	25	69	46	29	63.0
Beaufort	39	91	36	83	1	41	291	217	139	64.1
Berkeley	31	49	18	46	4	27	175	173	78	45.1
Calhoun	15	4	1	3	4	14	41	27	13	48.1
Charleston	80	62	32	106	8	124	412	496	235	47.4
Cherokee	34	11	4	-	-	12	61	71	33	48.5
Chester	27	30	16	30	2	6	111	137	65	47.4
Chesterfield	24	32	11	17	-	27	111	106	63	59.4
Clarendon	74	22	15	12	-	67	190	105	75	71.4
Colleton	5	21	7	14	2	30	79	49	35	71.4
Darlington	30	28	7	30	1	16	112	103	49	47.6
Dillon	3	8	4	10	-	10	35	62	22	35.5
Dorchester	7	18	7	2	-	8	42	85	32	37.6
Edgefield	1	2	2	-	-	3	8	21	4	19.0
Fairfield	5	4	-	5	-	3	17	58	10	17.2
Florence	48	27	14	33	2	5	129	269	86	32.0
Georgetown	5	16	5	17	3	15	61	135	35	25.9
Greenville	77	78	47	101	3	87	393	369	201	54.5

CONTINUED

TABLE P (CONTINUED)
PARTIES ATTENDING REVIEWS - 1989

COUNTY	BIRTH PARENTS	FOSTER PARENTS	CHILD	GAL	ATTORNEY(S)	OTHER	TOTAL # PARTIES ATTENDING	TOTAL # REVIEWS	TOTAL # OF REVIEWS WITH PARTIES ATTENDING	PERCENTAGE OF REVIEWS WITH PARTIES ATTENDING
Greenwood	29	33	7	4	-	12	85	59	37	62.7
Hampton	2	-	1	-	-	4	7	37	5	13.5
Horry	73	90	26	45	5	58	297	355	145	40.8
Jasper	3	7	-	2	-	-	12	27	11	40.7
Kershaw	18	20	8	22	2	14	84	64	39	60.9
Lancaster	37	14	6	7	-	15	79	150	47	31.3
Laurens	11	8	11	12	-	11	53	55	26	47.3
Lee	27	13	5	1	-	39	85	30	27	90.0
Lexington	71	46	25	45	11	50	248	227	126	55.5
Marion	43	2	14	4	1	23	87	116	53	45.7
Marlboro	64	81	13	49	-	27	234	212	116	54.7
McCormick	14	-	8	5	-	7	34	52	26	50.0
Newberry	8	-	4	1	-	-	13	14	9	64.3
Oconee	68	25	9	91	3	23	219	177	120	67.8
Orangeburg	27	20	11	16	-	21	95	207	50	24.2
Pickens	38	41	13	26	-	20	138	116	63	54.3
Richland	311	208	84	455	78	394	1530	862	653	75.8
Saluda	36	8	5	-	-	9	58	110	39	35.5
Spartanburg	78	69	34	102	19	55	357	317	188	53.0
Sumter	32	44	10	67	-	33	186	170	101	59.4
Union	4	10	2	4	2	18	40	18	13	72.2
Williamsburg	8	1	1	2	-	13	25	62	19	30.6
York	30	24	13	33	3	7	110	159	66	41.5
Area I	1	4	2	2	-	1	10	7	3	50.0
Area II	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	23	2	8.7
Area III	-	2	1	-	-	-	3	33	2	6.1
Area IV	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	41	0	0.0
Area V	-	4	1	11	-	3	19	35	17	48.6
Area VI	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	0	0.0
Non-DSS	69	46	128	2	1	70	316	949	172	18.2
TOTALS:	1838	1554	784	1709	109	1655	7695	8112	3848	47.4

**SOUTH CAROLINA FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD
1989-90 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

	ADJUSTED BUDGET	YTD ACTIVITY	BUDGET BALANCE	% EXPD
I. STATE APPROPRIATIONS				
A. ADMIN SUPPORT				
Unclassified Pos	42,481.10	42,481.10	0	100
Classified Pos	79,595.54	79,595.54	0	100
Temporary Pos				
Per Diem	750.00	750.00	0	100
Con Svcs	21,772.00	21,772.00	0	100
Supplies	3,463.00	3,463.00	0	100
Fixed Charges	13,050.00	13,050.00	0	100
Travel	<u>3,660.00</u>	<u>3,660.00</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100</u>
SUBTOTAL	164,771.64	164,771.64	0	100
B. LOCAL REVIEW BD				
Classified Pos	231,693.47	231,693.47	0	100
Per Diem	40,095.00	40,095.00	0	100
Con Svcs	14,960.27	14,960.27	0	100
Supplies	11,648.51	11,648.51	0	100
Fixed Charges	36,312.96	36,312.96	0	100
Travel	21,675.04	21,675.04	0	100
Equipment	<u>17,514.06</u>	<u>17,514.06</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100</u>
SUBTOTAL	373,899.31	373,899.31	0	100
C. EMPLOYER CONTRI	78,726.05	78,726.05	0	100
D. *COMPUTER EQUIP	14,999.00	14,999.00	0	100
TOTAL STATE	632,396.00	632,396.00	0	100
II. FEDERAL FUNDS**				
A. LOCAL REVIEW BD/ TITLE IV-E				
Classified Pos	48,904.00	44,955.37	3,948.63	92
Per Diem	9,150.00	35.00	9,115.00	0
Con Svcs	5,800.00	5,482.86	317.14	95
Supplies	3,400.00	3,400.00	0	100
Fixed Charges	4,000.00	4,000.00	0	100
Travel	<u>8,349.00</u>	<u>7,220.89</u>	<u>1,128.11</u>	<u>86</u>
SUBTOTAL	79,603.00	65,094.12	14,508.88	82
B. EMPLOYER CONTRI/ TITLE IV-E	<u>11,390.00</u>	<u>11,390.00</u>	<u>0</u>	100
TOTAL TITLE IV-E	90,993.00	76,484.12	14,508.88	84

1989-90 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PAGE TWO

C.	NATL FOS CAR				
	TRNING GR				
	Con Svcs	140.00	140.00	0	100
	Travel	<u>604.40</u>	<u>604.40</u>	<u>0</u>	100
	SUBTOTAL	744.40	744.40	0	100

TOTAL FEDERAL	91,737.40	77,228.52	14,508.88	84
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III. OTHER FUNDS***

A.	LOCAL REVIEW BD/ SALE OF ASSETS			
	Supplies	500.00	500.00	
B.	LOCAL REVIEW BD/ REFUND OF EXP			
	Con Svcs	50.00	50.00	
C.	LOCAL REVIEW BD/ Refund-Ins	<u>295.00</u>	<u>295.00</u>	
TOTAL OTHER	845.00	845.00***		

GRAND TOTAL	724,978.40	709,624.52	15,353.88	98
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*Non-recurring appropriations for Data Management System

**Cash Balance \$ 0

***Cash Balance \$ 935.00

DOCUMENTS

Policy Manual, June 1988

Review Board Handbook, February 1988

Manual of Policies and Procedures relating to the Children's Foster Care Review Board System in South Carolina, (revised January 1986)

Manual of Policies and Procedures relating to the Children's Foster Care Review Board System in South Carolina, (revised June 1988)

Manual of Policies and Procedures relating to the Children's Foster Care Review Board System in South Carolina, (revised January 1990)

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System prior to July 1977

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System prior to January 1978

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System prior to January 1979

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1979 Calendar Year

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A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1988 Calendar Year

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